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VICTORY SPORTS WRESTLING MAGAZINE

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Victory Sports Wrestling

Is The Hulkster Burning Out?
GIVE HULK HOGAN A REST

Special Analysis:
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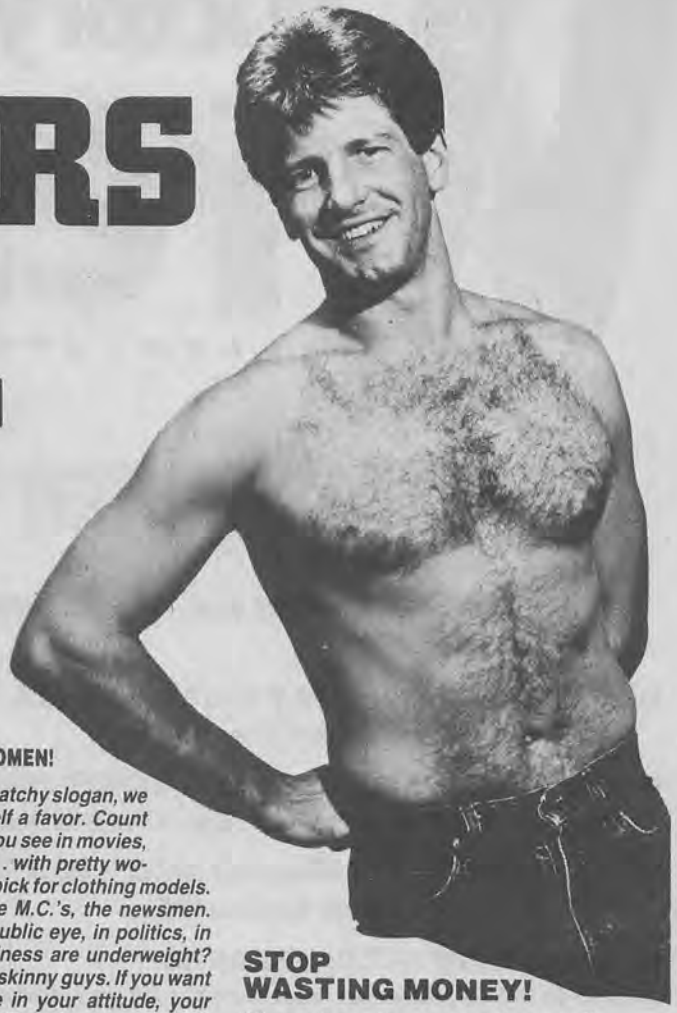

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SKINNY ISN'T ATTRACTIVE

If you don't think so, just watch what turns women's heads on the beach. They get turned on by well-built guys. They're the ones with the prettiest girls. It's a rare fellow who doesn't want to look good in his clothes and is happy with a skinny frame, who has not envied men who weighed a little more, had a better appetite and generally displayed a physical fitness that spoke of health and well-being. True, while doctors and nutrition specialists warn against being fat, very little is said about the equal or greater evils of being underweight. So there's more to it than cosmetic aspects. Skinny is not only unattractive. It is also unhealthful. Gaining weight could mean gaining health for you.

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Skinny men are not great lovers. That's a known fact. Add a few pounds and you'll be amazed how it will improve your love-life. Women know this and are conscious of the fact that skinny men can't go the distance. The race is to the strong, the saying goes. And the fellow who is handsomest doesn't look like a stand-in for the family skeleton. Many a man found that gaining a few more pounds has helped him overcome chronic illness, major or minor. Many a doctor has prescribed gaining weight. But so little is publicized about skinny men. The great amount of publicity given to coronary problems has brought the bulk of weight attention to those men who weigh too much. Men who weigh too little never really get equal time. But their problem is no less serious.

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Victory Sports Wrestling

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THERE'S A PHRASE that seems to have become almost as identifiable with The Road Warriors as the unusual and ever-changing facial makeup that Hawk and Animal wear to the ring:

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As in this quote from Animal: "We don't care how much damage we do to our opponents; we're here to break a few bones!"

Or this one from Hawk: "We don't care what people say about us; we're the greatest tag team in wrestling. Period."

But when Precious Paul Ellering, manager of the AWA World tag team champions, uttered those three words recently, they had a special significance for The Fabulous Freebirds.

"We don't care what kind of a reputation Michael Hayes, Terry

(Continued on page 8)

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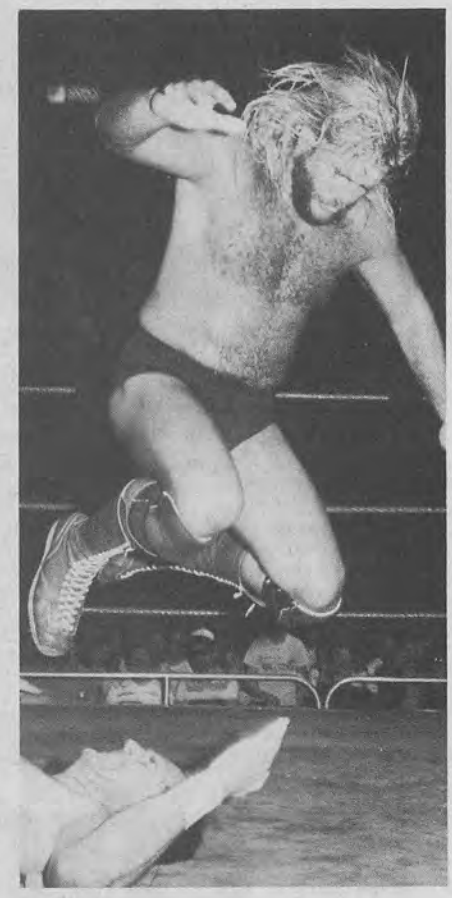
THE FREEBIRDS

(Continued from page 6)



The Freebirds can dominate just about any team in the sport with their quickness and strength. But The Road Warriors are not just another team. Terry Gordy lifts Greg Gagne and drives his back into the mat (above left). Michael Hayes delivers a vicious kneedrop against Gagne (above right). Hayes controls the action outside the ring and close to the Freebird corner where Gagne's partner, Curt Hennig, can be of no help (left).

Gordy, and Buddy Roberts have," Ellering told *Inside Wrestling*. "Look, there was a time when Genintech was the hottest stock on the market. Great reputation, but what does that mean for today? Absolutely nothing.

"The point is that we don't care about yesterday's reputations, we want to know about today's teams. We need competition. And frankly, we're quite discerning regarding the teams we choose to dismantle, so if The Freebirds would like to number themselves among the priviliged few, they're going to have to establish a reputation for themselves on the AWA scene first.

"And frankly," Ellering added with a wry smile curling his lip, "the AWA scene is pretty bleak these days, with the exception of the Legion of Doom. If the 'Birds *can't* establish themselves—well, that's all the more reason that we don't want to be bothered with that kind of trash."

●

Michael Hayes is the acknowledged leader of The Fabulous Freebirds. He's a man who isn't impressed with any wrestler until he's had the opportunity to step into the ring with him personally—and even then, Hayes is a difficult man to convince.

So to say that Hayes wasn't impressed by the comments of Paul Ellering would indeed be an understatement.

"Who in the hell does *Precious*

(Continued on page 44)

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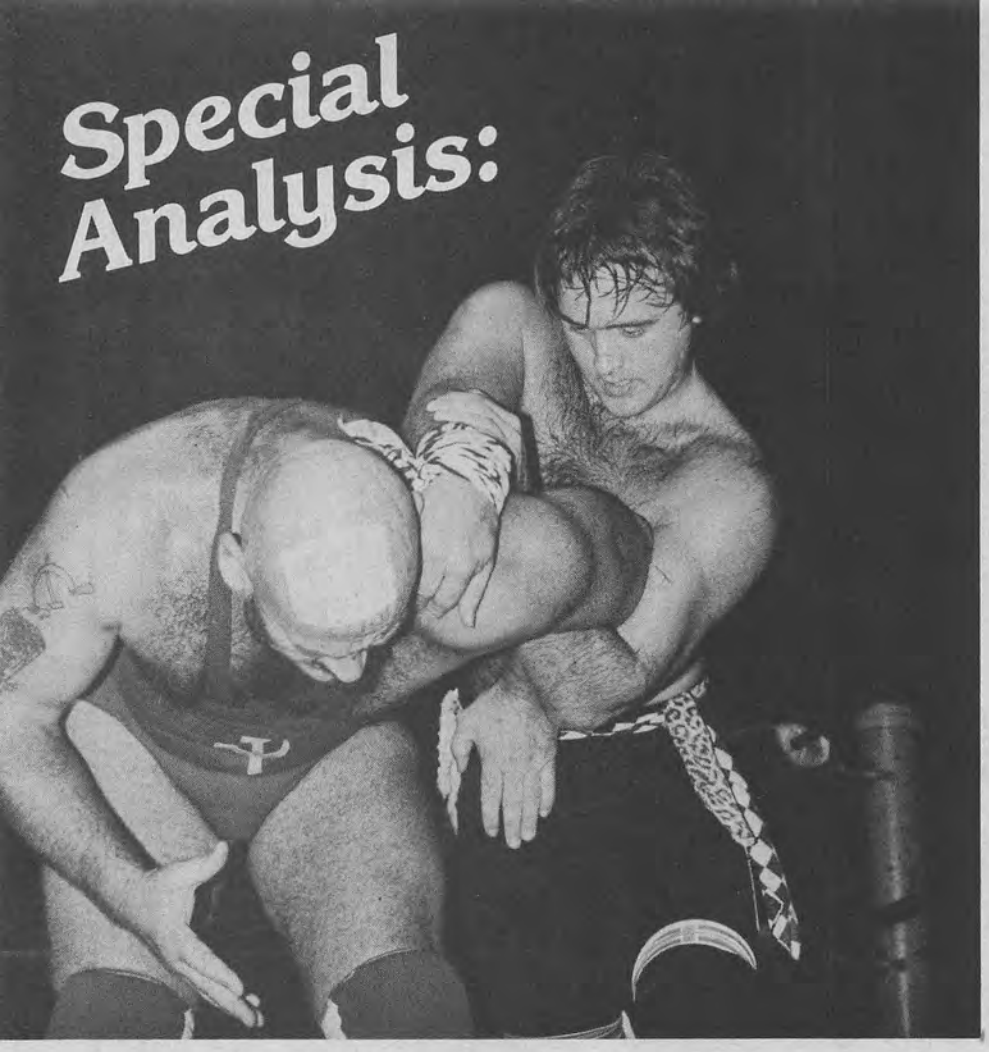
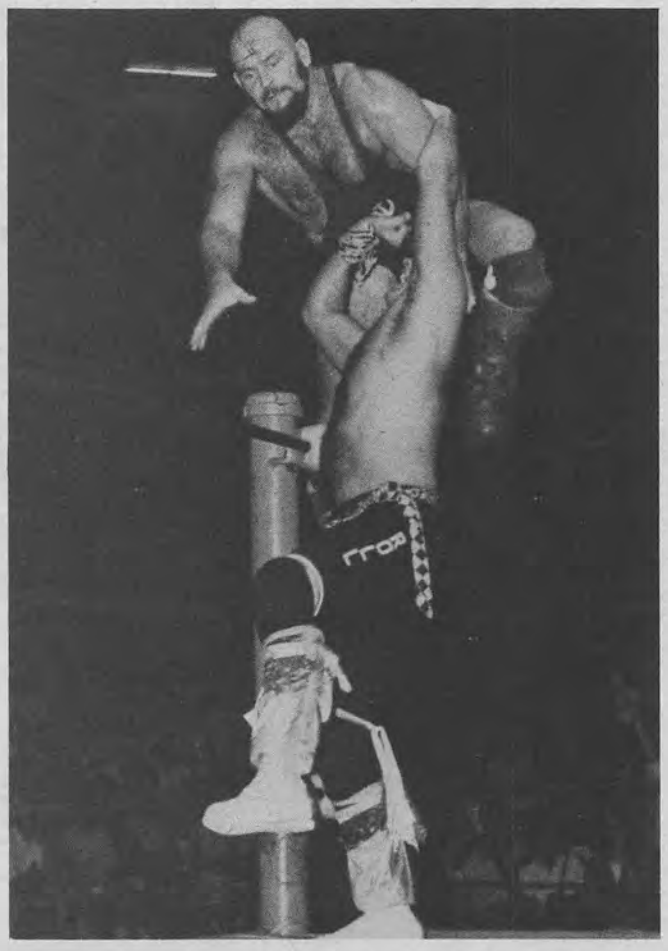


By Stu Saks

THE ROCK 'N' ROLLS SAVE THE NWA

Ivan Koloff cringes from the pain of Robert Gibson's armlock (above). Morton lifts Ivan from the turnbuckles and flings him to the mat (right).



IT PLEASED ME greatly when I learned that The Rock 'n' Roll Express had captured the NWA World tag team title. Rick Morton and Robert Gibson are great athletes and fine representatives of the sport, but what makes me happiest about their new title reign is the fact that Ivan Koloff and Nikita Koloff and Krusher Khrushchev are no longer in a position to embarrass the NWA.

If I sat and spoke with NWA President Bob Geigel for two hours, I still don't think I'd understand why the NWA gave the Russians the right to use their choice of any two of the three team members for their title defenses. This arrangement provided an utterly absurd advantage for the champions.

While there were times when the opposition knew for sure which two men they would be facing (on July 9, for instance, when Ivan and Khrushchev lost the title in Shelby, North Carolina, Nikita was scheduled for a

(Continued on page 12)

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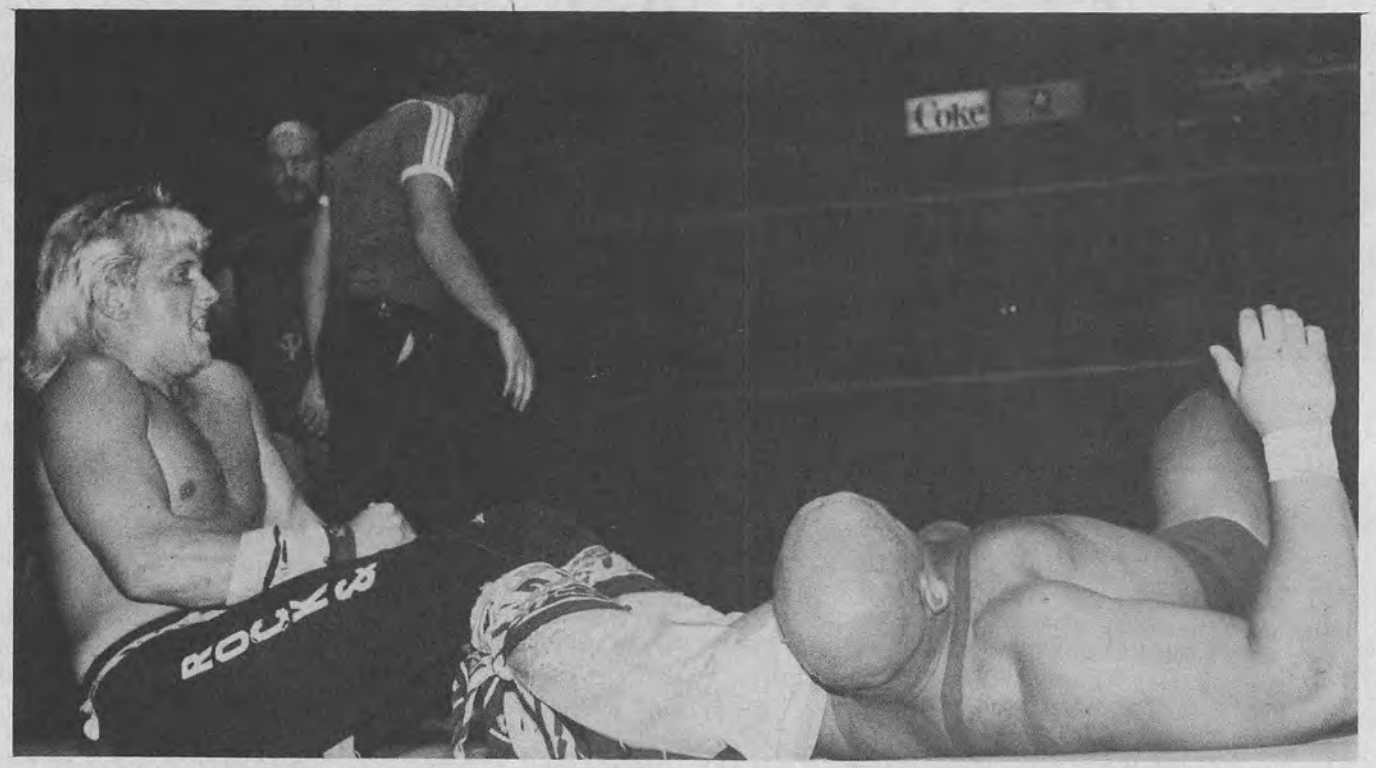
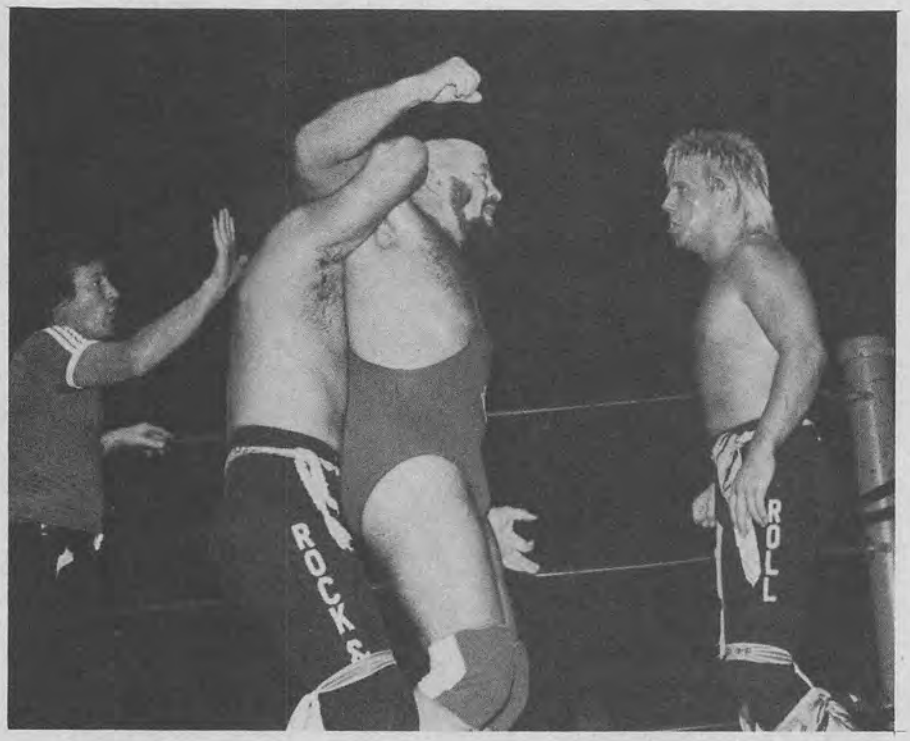
ROCK 'N' ROLLS

(Continued from page 10)



The significance of the Rock 'n' Rolls' victory stretches far beyond the crowning of new tag team champions. Now the NWA has a chance to reevaluate its rules governing this particular championship. Rick Morton applies an armstretcher against Krusher Khrushchev (above). The Rock 'n' Rolls are warned about their double-teaming (below).



singles match out of town), the Russians were not required to divulge which two men they would be using until match time.

While the Russians could prepare their defense for one team, the challengers had to concentrate on three: Ivan and Nikita, Ivan and Khrushchev, and Khrushchev and Nikita. Given only a limited amount of time to prepare for a title match, often the challengers would have to guess which combination they would be facing and prepare themselves based on that guess. Much like a pitcher-batter confrontation in baseball in which the batter tries to guess what type of pitch he will be facing, the Russians would try to guess what their opposition would be guessing and counter with a different combination. Actually, all the guessing and counter-guessing didn't really matter; statistically, the challengers would have only a 33 percent chance of predicting which two men they would be facing.

Manny Fernandez was among the many wrestlers who was extremely outspoken about this injustice. It was Fernandez and Dusty Rhodes, remember, who lost the tag team belts to Ivan and Nikita Koloff in March. "This whole thing was ridiculous," Fernandez said. "It was Ivan and Nikita who won the title—and I don't even want to talk about how they won it. The first time they used Khrushchev, I thought the NWA

(Continued on page 45)

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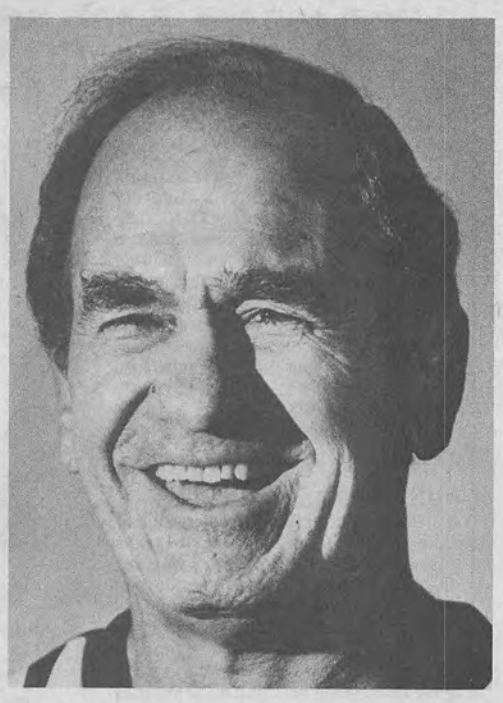

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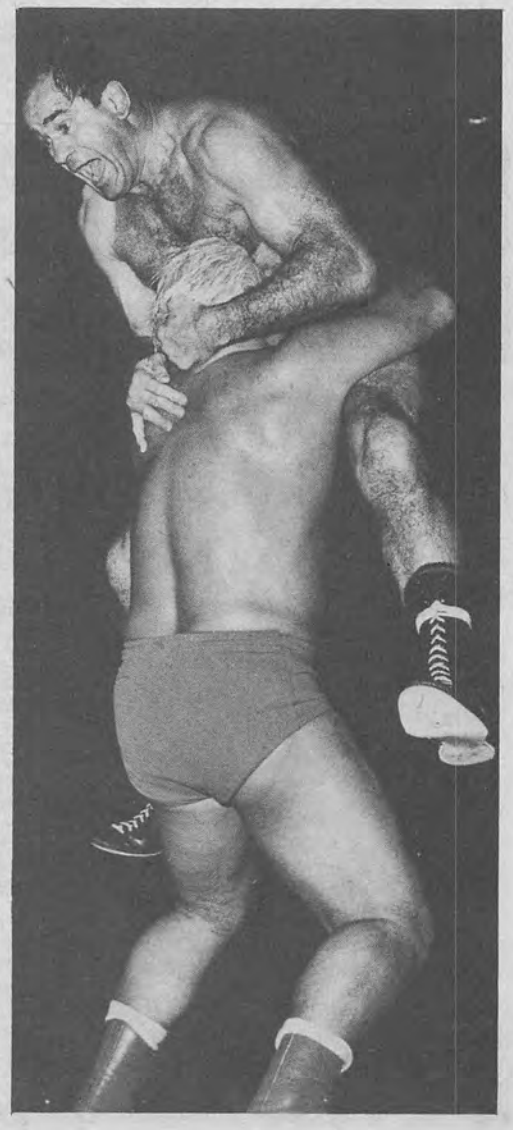
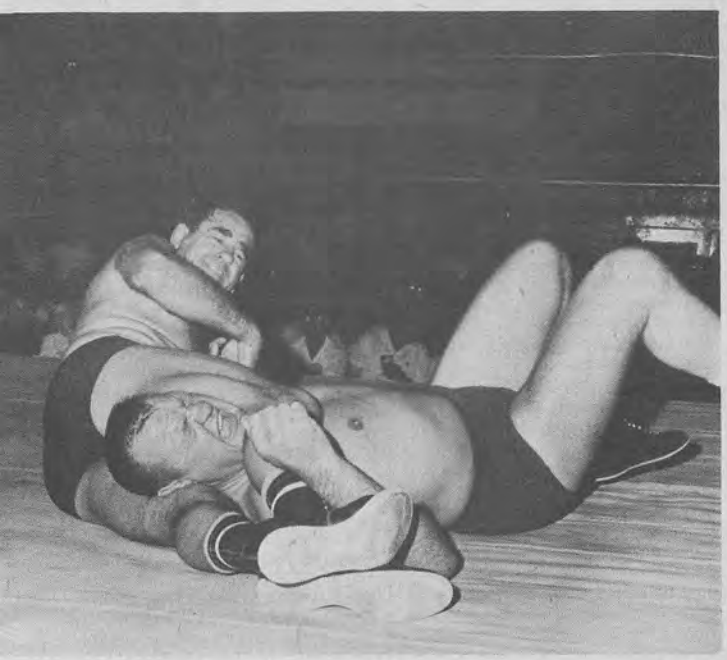


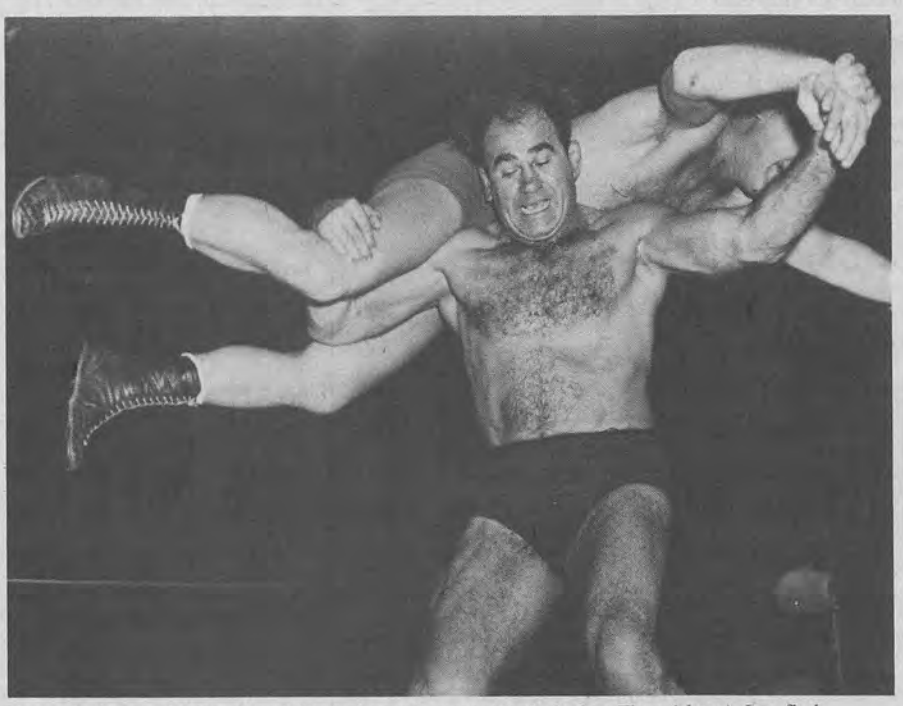
Lou Thesz was 12 in 1928, the year he attended his first wrestling match and watched in boyish wonder as Ed "Strangler" Lewis defeated Joe Stecher for the NWA title.

The match left Thesz flush with enthusiasm and, as he has admitted several times, changed the course of his life. Thesz remembers going to sleep during the frigid nights of the Great Depression dreaming about the impressive, golden belt that the referee slipped around Londos' waist, fantasizing that someday that belt would be his.

As an 18-year-old, Thesz's natural strength and fluidity of motion impressed the legendary Strangler Lewis enough to have Lewis take him under his care. In 1937, Lewis turned Thesz



Among Thesz's favorite maneuvers was the vertical bodyblock (opposite left). Thesz is one of the main reasons Gene Kiniski finished his career with cauliflower ears (left). Thesz defeats Buddy Rogers for the NWA title on January 24, 1963, in Toronto (above).



No one in the sport's history used the airplane spin more effectively than Thesz (above). Lou finds Pepper Gomez's open midsection with a dropkick (right).

loose on the NWA champion, Everett Marshall. Three hours and 30 minutes later Thesz's adolescent dream became real as the gold belt was placed around his waist—although he was too beaten up to enjoy the moment.

It didn't matter. Thesz would repeat that moment five more times in his illustrious career, spending close to 15 years as the NWA champion. He retired in 1967 to a career in real estate, although he has on occasion donned the tights and has always kept close tabs on the sport.

Senior Editor Bill Apter spoke with Thesz about the changes the sport has undergone over the past 20 years.

Q: What were you thinking after three hours against Everett Marshall back in 1937?

A: I was thinking that if this match didn't end soon I was going to be the first 21-year-old to ever drop dead from a heart attack.

Q: How could a match last so long? Something like that would never happen today.

A: First of all, right after that match, the NWA commission placed time limits on all matches. The reason that one lasted so long is because Marshall was a great wrestler. You see Strangler Lewis didn't like Marshall's manager and he trained me well. He later told me that he knew he was beaten after the first hour, but, like I said, he was a fine wrestler and hung on. I had his number, though. We wrestled five times and he never won.

Q: How did it feel to be 21 and champion of the world?

A: After I got out of the hospital I felt great. But you must remember that I lost the title to Crusher Casey three months later. Then I won it back and lost it again in '39 to Bronko Nagurski. Then I went nine years without a belt. Those

(Continued on page 46)

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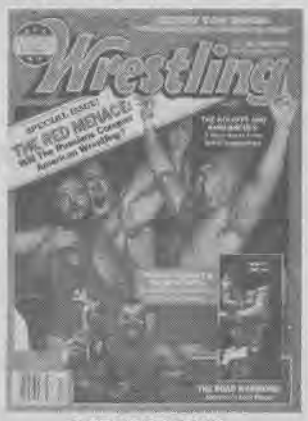
April 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Andre, Von Erich, Piper.
May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Hogan, Von Erich.
June 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Von Erich, Slaughter, Morales.
July 1982/Stories include: Hogan, Rhodes, Steamboat, Adonis.
August 1982/Stories include: Andre, Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Backlund.
September 1982/Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody.



OCTOBER 1985

October 1982/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.
November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.
December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.
February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.
March 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.
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September 1983/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.
October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.
November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.
December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.
January 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Rich, Superstar, Piper.
February 1984/Stories include: Abdullah, Sawyers, Valiant, Von Erich.
March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.
April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.
May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.
June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.
July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.
August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.
September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.
October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.
November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.
December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.
January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.
February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.
March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.
April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.
May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.
June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.
July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.
August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlemania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.
September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.
October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.
November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.
December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.

INSIDE WRESTLING

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☐ APR 76	☐ JAN 79	☐ APR 81	☐ JUNE 83	☐ MAR 85
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June 1975/Stories include: Andre, Muraco, Funk, Lawler.

July 1975/Stories include: Valentine, Sammartino, Race, Rhodes.

August 1975/Stories include: Sammartino, Patterson, Stasiak, Rivera.

December 1975/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, McDaniel, Blackjacks.

January 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Putski, Wrestling II, Rhodes.

February 1976/Stories include: Andre, Sammartino, Rhodes, Valentine.

July 1976/Stories include: Andre, Wrestling II, Inoki, Von Erich.

November 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Valentine, Mosca.

December 1976/Stories include: Von Erich, Mulligan, Brody, Funk.

January 1977/Stories include: Brody, Andre, Wrestling II, Mascaras.

February 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Jones, Funk, Von Raschke.

April 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Funk, Flair, Bockwinkel.

May 1977/Stories include: Mascaras, Valiants, Andersons, Sammartino.

June 1977/Stories include: Patera, Putski, Hernandez, McDaniel.

July 1977/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Rocca, Mascaras.

October 1977/Stories include: Rhodes, Sammartino, Flair, Snuka.

November 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Slater, Mascaras, Snuka.

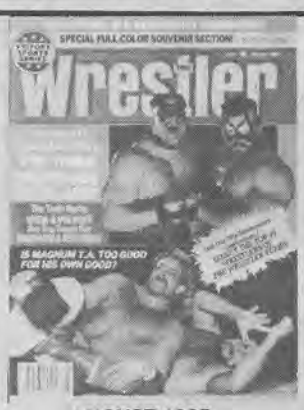
September 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Grahams, Andre, Mascaras.

October 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Backlund, McDaniel, Race.

November 1978/Stories include: Flair, Andre, Ladd, Graham.

December 1978/Stories include: Brisco, Mulligan, Andre, Blanchard.

February 1979/Stories include: Ladd, Flair, Idol, Heenan.



AUGUST 1985

May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Brody, Valiants, Race.

July 1979/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Sammartino, Andre.

August 1979/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Patera, Stevens, Superstar.

October 1979/Stories include: Flair, Valentine, Santana, Muraco.

December 1979/Stories include: Andre, Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras.

January 1980/Stories include: Race, Backlund, Snuka, Brisco.

February 1980/Stories include: Andre, Flair, DiBiase, Superstar.

March 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Andre.

April 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, DiBiase, Youngblood, Wrestling II.

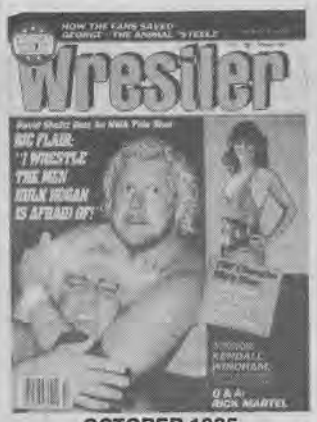
May 1980/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Bockwinkel, Patera.

June 1980/Stories include: Backlund, Abdullah, Brisco, Flair.

August 1980/Stories include: Valentine, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Albano.

September 1980/Stories include: Ladd, Patera, Steamboat, Gagne.

October 1980/Stories include: Patera, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Morales.



OCTOBER 1985

November 1980/Stories include: Rich, Hogan, Snuka, Super Destroyers.

January 1981/Stories include: Valentine, Rhodes, Patera, Von Erich.

February 1981/Stories include: Zbyszko, Patera, Iron Sheik, Wrestling II.

March 1981/Stories include: Rich, Samoans, Blassie, Wrestling II.

May 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, DiBiase, Moondogs.

June 1981/Stories include: Sammartino, Piper, Rich, Martel.

July 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Flair, Atlas.

August 1981/Stories include: DiBiase, Slaughter, Martel, Idol.

October 1981/Stories include: Funks, Rhodes, Race, Sullivan.

December 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Steele, Race, Hogan.

January 1982/Stories include: Rich, Steamboat, Sullivan, Sammartino.

March 1982/Stories include: Slaughter, Albano, Flair, Race.

April 1982/Stories include: Brisco, Armstrongs, Valentine, Santana.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Von Erich, Graham, Rich.

June 1982/Stories include: Steamboat, Reed, Albano, Piper.

July 1982/Stories include: Rich, Sawyer, Flair, Steamboat.

August 1982/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Mulligans, Piper.

September 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, Armstrong, Blair.

October 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rhodes, Santana, Piper.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Piper, Blair.

December 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.

January 1983/Stories include: Putski, Muraco, Windham, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Backlund, Rich, Kamala.

March 1983/Stories include: Piper, Reed, Valiant, Roberts.

April 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Tiger Mask, Sammartino, Bundy.

May 1983/Stories include: Samoans, Von Erich, Rhodes, Orndorff.

June 1983/Stories include: Windham, Martel, Brody, Andre.

July 1983/Stories include: Flair, Adonis, Sullivan, Zbyszko.

August 1983/Stories include: Valentine, Blanchard, Windham, Street.

September 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Briscos.

October 1983/Stories include: Race, Sawyer, Briscos, Bass.

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December 1983/Stories include: Mascaras, Superstar, Von Erich, Zbyszko.

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April 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Rhodes.

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July 1984/Stories include: Rich, Billy Jack, Valiant, Von Erich.

August 1984/Stories include: Garvin, Sullivan, Freebirds, Street.

September 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Piper, Steamboat, Billy Jack.

October 1984/Stories include: Flair, Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Bundy.

November 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Von Erich, Piper, Brody.

December 1984/Stories include: Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.

January 1985/Stories include: Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloffs.

February 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.

March 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Von Erich-Adams, Flair, Tonga & Snuka.

May 1985/Stories include: Warriors. Backlund, Santana, Rich.

June 1985/Stories include: Rhodes, Windham, Rich, Hogan.

July 1985/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Reed, Martel, Sunshine.

August 1985/BONUS 4-PG. COLOR SECTION! Plus: Warriors, Magnum T.A., Sheik & Volkoff, McGraw.

September 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Savage, R&R Express.

October 1985/Stories include: Flair, Windham, Shultz, Martel.

November 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Zbyszko, R&R Express, Von Erichs.

December 1985/Stories include: Rude, Fantastics, Muraco, Uncle Elmer.

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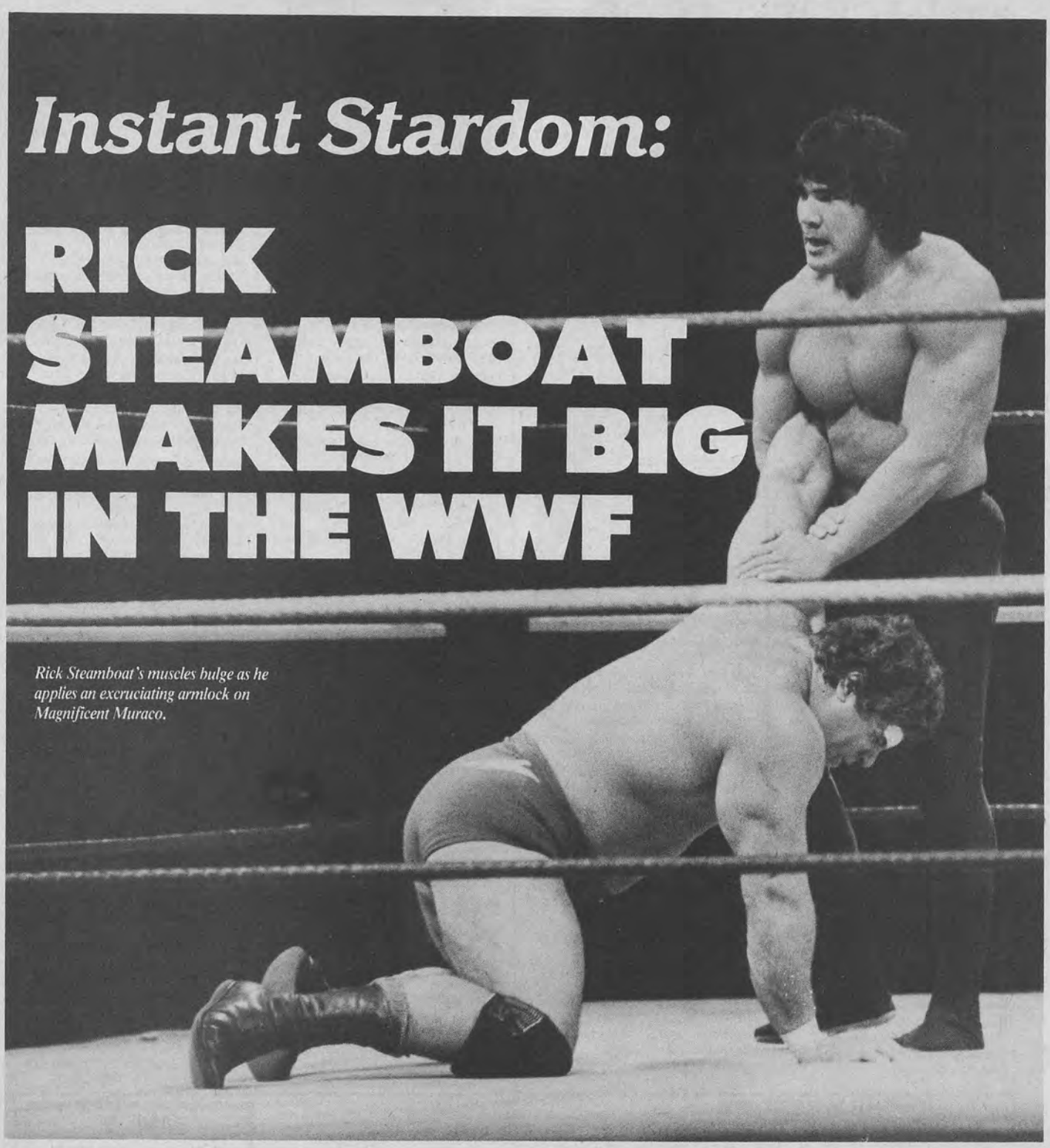
Instant Stardom:

RICK STEAMBOAT MAKES IT BIG IN THE WWF



Rick Steamboat's muscles bulge as he applies an excruciating armlock on Magnificent Muraco.

By Matt Brock

Unlike most recent new arrivals to the WWF, Rick Steamboat didn't have to prove himself to the fans. Most fans already knew and appreciated his skills; the few that didn't instantly took a liking to the Hawaiian heartthrob. It all adds up to stardom that could soon rival the popularity of even Hulk Hogan!

I THINK A lot of it has to do with the fact that Rick Steamboat didn't really know what to do in his career.

What's "it"? Well, the "it" in this case is the love of the fans, the revitalization of an otherwise stagnant career, and a future brighter than that of virtually every other wrestler.

And now—though I hate to type the words—Rick Steamboat is in the WWF. And he's wrestling better than

(Continued on page 20)

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- Roddy Piper vs. Greg Valentine—*dog collar chain match*
- Ric Flair vs. Harley Race—cage match—*Flair regains NWA World title*
- Abdullah the Butcher vs. Carlos Colon

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- The Road Warriors vs. The Fabulous Ones
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- Features on Rick Steamboat, Wahoo McDaniel, Exotic Adrian Street, Jimmy Valiant, and Gorgeous George
- Rare footage of Ric Flair regaining the NWA World title from Kerry Von Erich on May 24, 1984, in Japan
- Rare footage of Harley Race's first NWA World title victory May 24, 1973, over Dory Funk Jr. in Kansas City, Kansas

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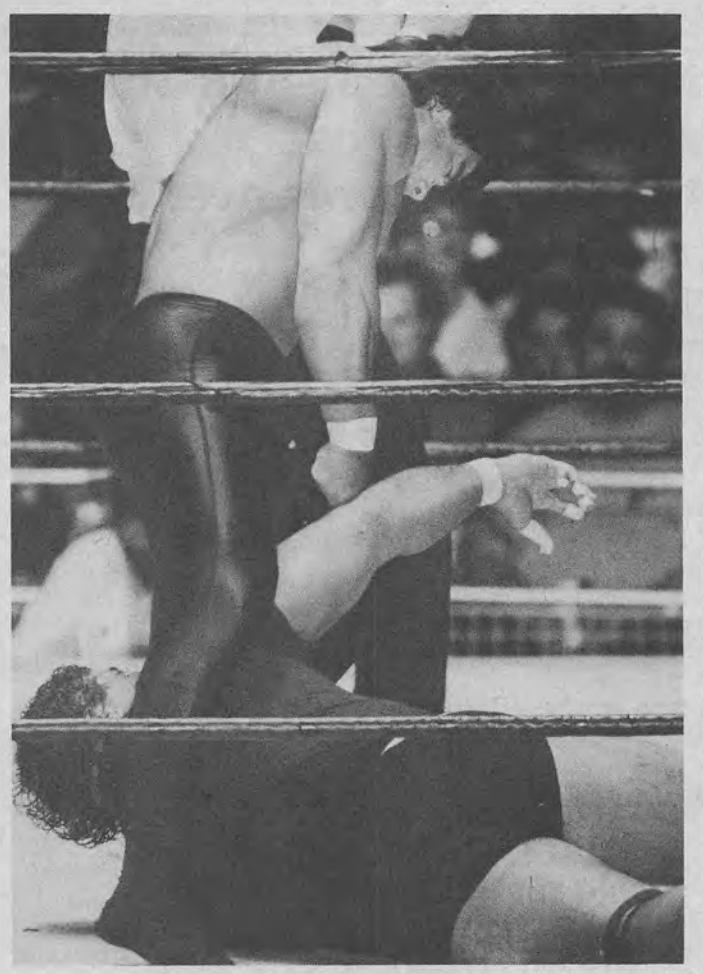
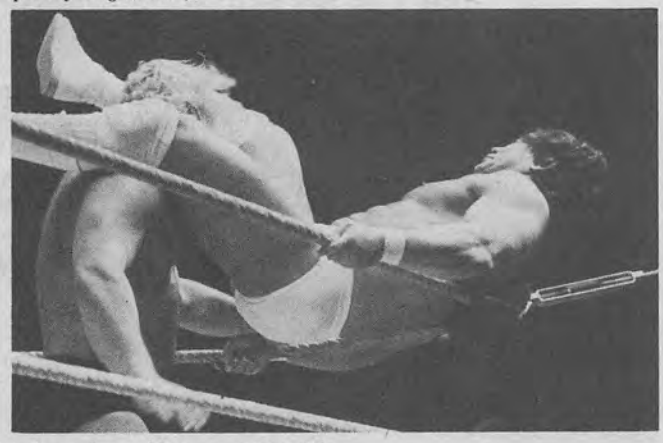
STEAMBOAT

(Continued from page 18)



Greg Valentine tumbles to the canvas, having taken a Steamboat karate thrust to the throat (above). Rick catches a charging Matt Borne with his powerful legs (below).



Few people can anger Steamboat as fellow Hawaiian Muraco can (above and below). The agile Steamboat flattens Moondog Spot with a perfect flying bodypress from the turnbuckles (opposite bottom).

ever before. And the fans love him.

It's no wonder. Steamboat is the kind of a kid that has it all. He's got some of the most incredible wrestling skills of anyone in the sport. In fact, I think one of the most excellent matches I've ever seen in my life was the battle between Steamboat and NWA World champion Ric Flair in New Jersey's Brendan Byrne Meadowlands Arena in early 1984. And one of the most chilling moments of that match was when Steamboat bridged up off the mat with his neck and rose to his feet, fighting back against the full force of Flair's formidable pin attempt.

He's also got credentials. He's held the U.S. heavyweight title, the NWA World tag team title on three occasions (with Jay Youngblood as his partner), the Mid-Atlantic heavyweight title, and more regional titles than I can list here without running this story all the way back to at least page 59.

And Steamboat has personality. He's a likable young man, liked by the fans and by his peers. You can tell just from talking with the man

(Continued on page 48)

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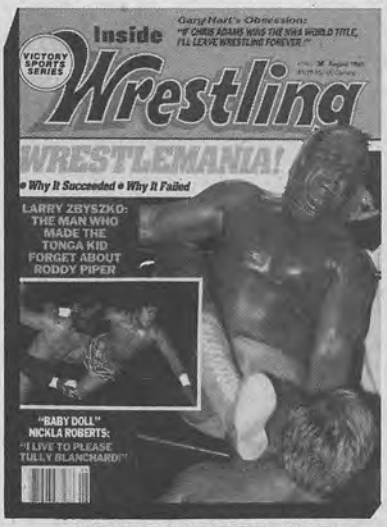

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WRESTLERS OF THE YEAR PUZZLE

It's almost time for the annual Pro Wrestling Illustrated Achievement Awards. So, in celebration, ***Victory Sports Wrestling*** *presents this special puzzle featuring past winners of the prestigious "Wrestler of the Year" trophy. By the way, the winners of this year's achievement awards will be announced in the March 1986 issue of* ***Pro Wrestling Illustrated****, on sale December 24. Names are hidden vertically, horizontally, and diagonally. Good luck!*
Time Limit: **8½ Minutes**

NAMES HIDDEN IN THE PUZZLE:

• BACKLUND • BRISCO • FLAIR • FUNK • MORALES •
• RACE • RHODES • SAMMARTINO • WRESTLING II

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M	Q	O	I	D	I	N	K	E	S	S	S	E	L	R	R	O	M
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O	V	C	E	A	H	J	S	T	H	E	R	H	N	R	W	V	I
A	Y	B	E	M	D	E	I	W	D	E	B	U	S	X	E	W	Q
X	Z	A	Z	Y	W	X	R	I	A	L	F	V	W	Z	V	H	Y
B	A	C	L	U	N	D	B	V	I	M	T	Q	H	Y	Q	B	V

(Answers on page 52)

NEXT TIME GINO CHEATS
DON'T JUST SIT THERE
RAM HIS HEAD INTO THE TURNBUCKLE

AFTER ALL - THE ONLY THING BETTER THAN WATCHING THE VON ERICHS WRESTLE IS BEING ONE . . . IN

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WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING GAME T.M.

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The game comes with everything needed for play: a pair of dice, a game board, a scoreboard with four sets of scoring pegs, a deck of action cards, eight wrestler cards describing the abilities of the eight wrestlers, eight matching wrestler playing pieces with four plastic stands and a complete, easy to understand set of rules.

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ASSUMING THAT THE real worth of any wrestler lies in his ability to capture and defend a title, then Larry Zbyszko ain't worth an umbrella in a blizzard. Zbyszko has held three titles in his erratic career and held on to them for a total of seven months. One of those titles, the National championship, Zbyszko purchased amidst a heap of controversy, and was able to keep for all of 14 days.

Yet any wrestling fan with one good eye and half an ear knows Larry Zbyszko to be among the most feared and devastating wrestlers to emerge in the past 15 years. They know Zbyszko to be the man who caused Bruno Sammartino to bow in pain and, many insist, hasten the "Living Legend's" retirement from the ring.

Zbyszko fights his way off the ropes, landing a solid right cross to Wahoo McDaniel's jaw.

WHY LARRY ZBYSZKO CAN'T HOLD ON TO A TITLE

So why, while dozens of lesser men are able to maintain titles of all sorts, has the sport handcuffed Larry Zbyszko? What is it in Zbyszko's nature and temperament that has prevented him from translating his obvious skill into the shine and substance of a championship belt?

On the one hand, Zbyszko is wrestling's John McEnroe—their mutual arrogance notwithstanding—in regard to their inabilities to capture certain titles. McEnroe's only Achilles' heel being Roland Garros, scene of the French Open, while Zbyszko's failures are more geographically complex—every arena has proven unfriendly to Zbyszko in his championship encounters.

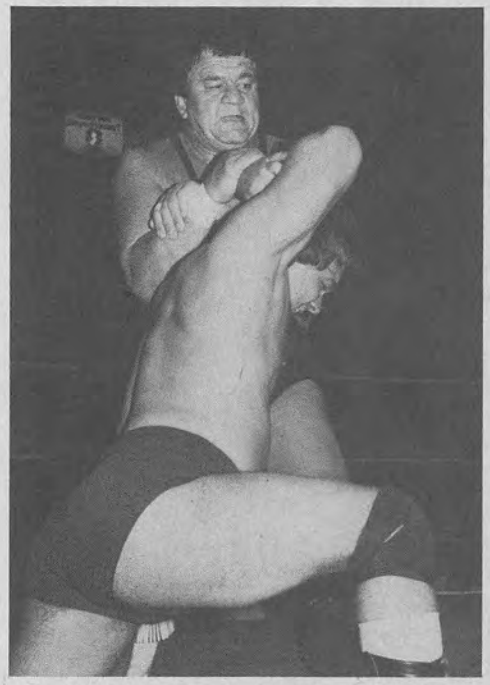
Explanations are as plentiful as strings on a tennis racket or stitches

(Continued on page 48)

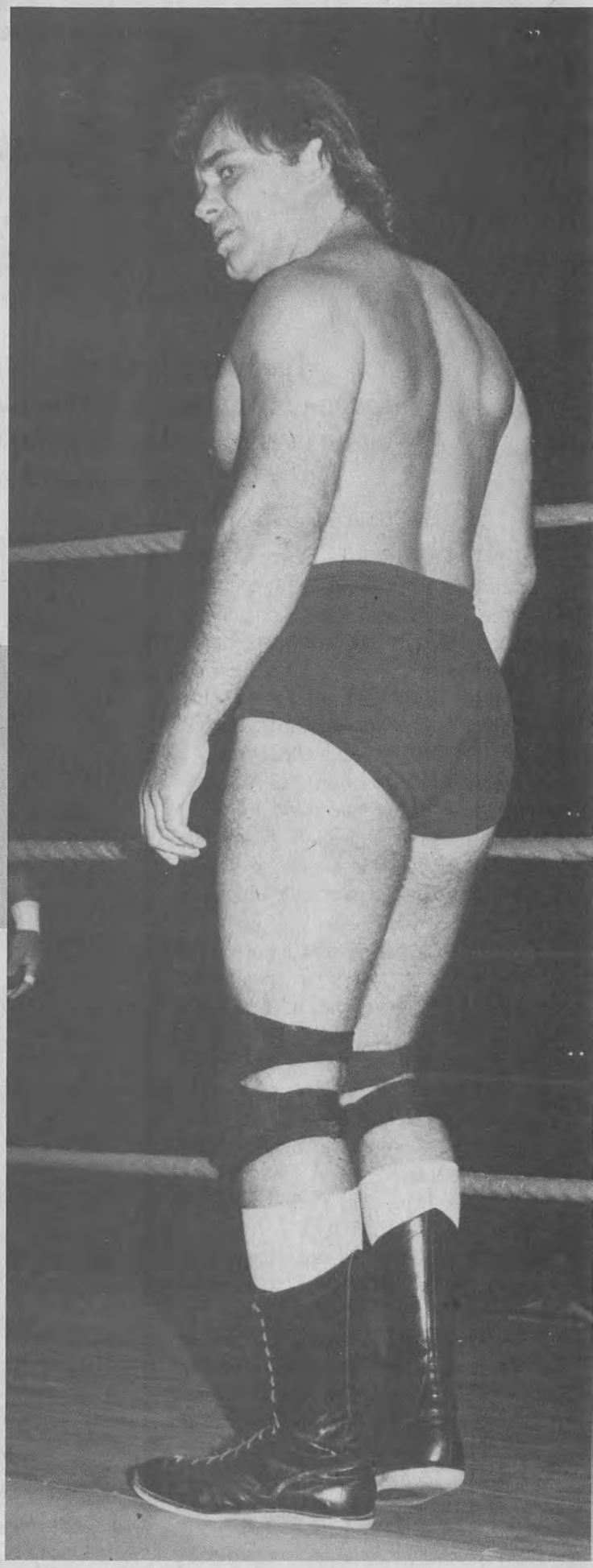
This test of strength would end abruptly when Zbyszko lifted his knee into Wahoo's solar plexus.

The wily veteran McDaniel has Zbyszko completely under his control with a chinlock.

Larry Zbyszko suffers from delusions of grandeur, yet he has been unable to hold on to a major championship for more than a few months. The question is will he ever, or will his hatred for everything around him cause him to self-destruct?



Larry tries in vain to power his way out of McDaniel's figure-four armbar.



THE MISSING

Is A Lot More Than A

There are those who equate The Missing Link with the clowns of the rodeo—bit players who provide the fans with some comic relief in between main events. As any wrestler who has caught The Link on a bad night will tell you, such a statement couldn't be farther from the truth

By Eddie Ellner

I WAS FAST at work on my Chinese take-out when the phone rang in the office. I never answer the phone during lunch, but since our staff of secretaries were themselves out to lunch—pun intended—I was left with very little choice. As it turns out, I'm glad I did.

"Talk fast, my soup's getting cold," I answered in my best *why are you calling here at this time* voice.

"Ah, ah! Well, well! If it isn't Mr. Ellner. Mother and I were so hoping that you would answer. She absolutely dotes over you!"

Only one person that I know over the age of six works his mother into every conversation he has. It could only be Percival Pringle. My antennae went immediately up. Percy never called to just exchange pleasantries. At best he was fishing for a little free publicity; at worst he could be after some real favor.

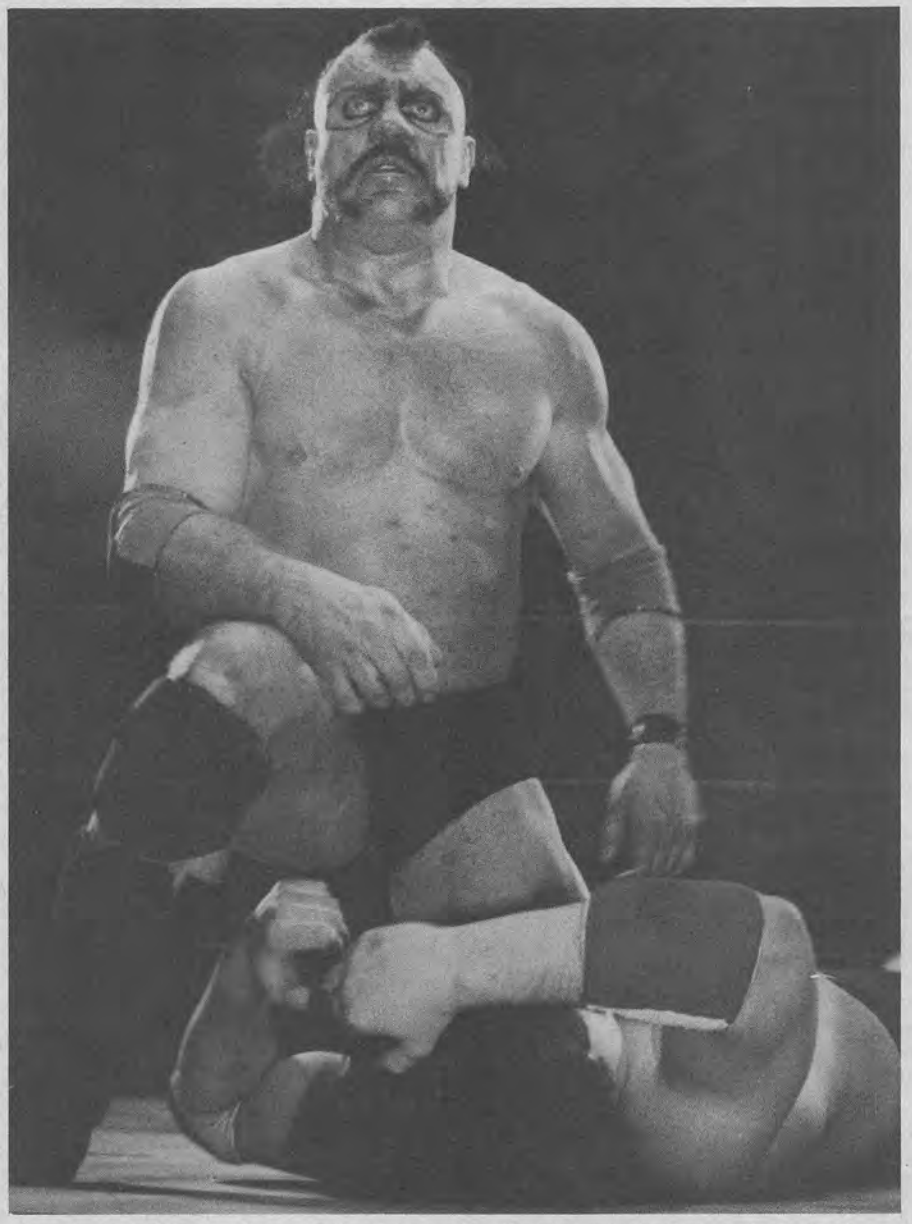
"Look Percy, I'm really busy here, how about if I get back . . .

"Oh now, now Edward. Have a little patience. It's not often that a pot of gold is delivered to your doorstep. Especially by the greatest manager in wrestling history. Oh, excuse me? Oh, yes, of course. How remiss of me. Hand delivered by the greatest manager *and* his mother."

I was in no mood for this.

"Percy, I'm really in no mood for this."

(Continued on page 52)

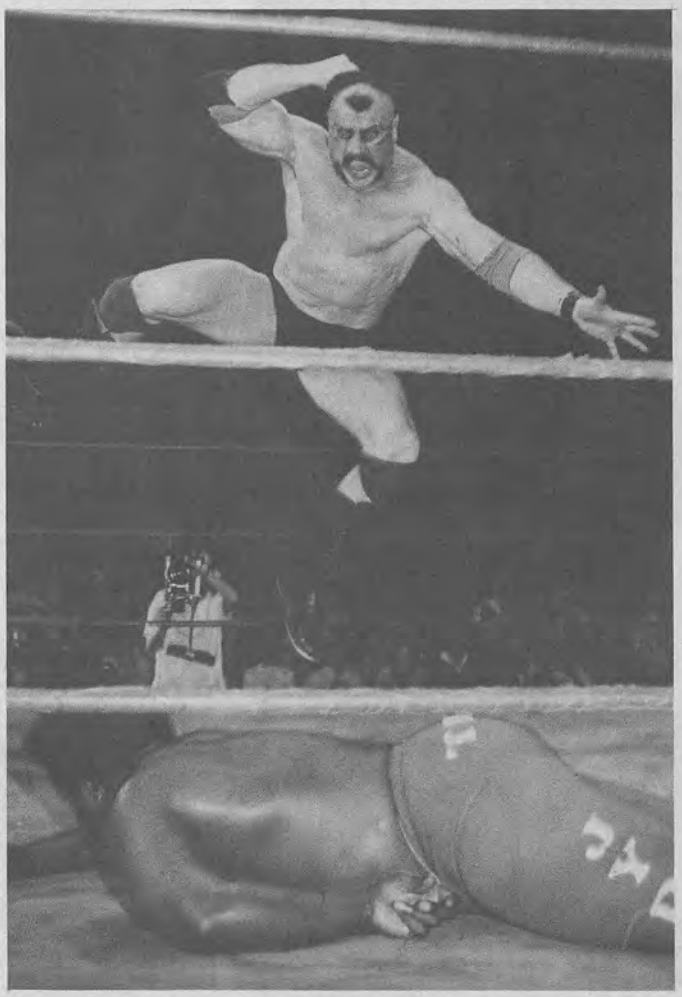


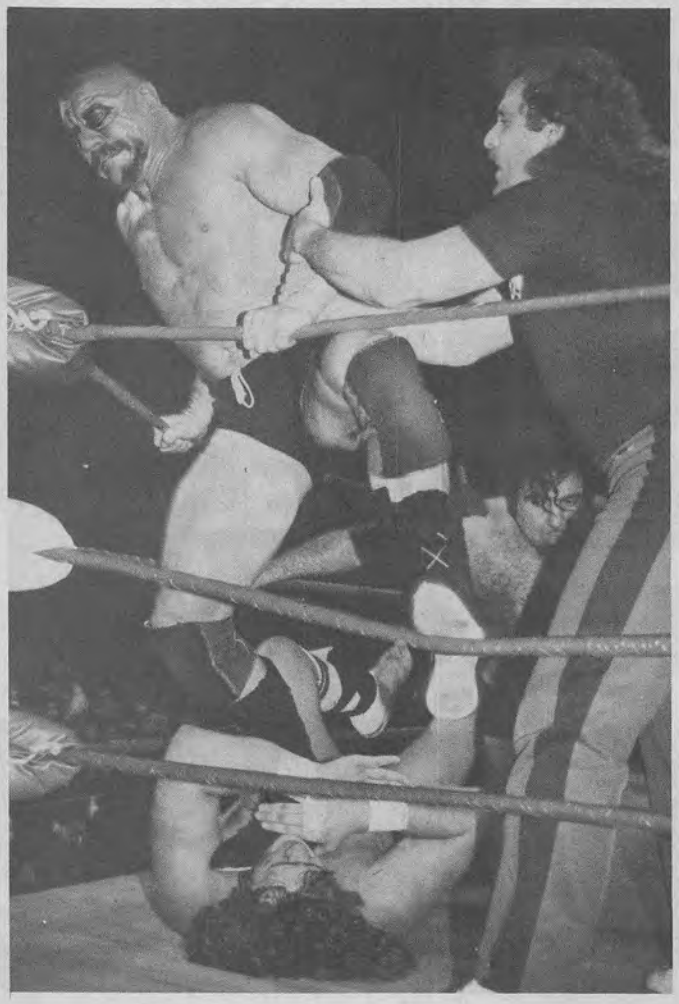
Sometimes it is difficult to know exactly what a man like The Missing Link is thinking about when he's in the ring.

LINK

Wrestling Oddity

While wrestling in Texas, Missing Link forces Junkyard Dog to the ropes, where Link's then-manager, Skandor Akbar, takes a few cheap shots (left). The familiar Link scream, a grab of his tuft of hair, and a kneedrop on the Dog (below left). Link and Akbar assault Terry Gordy (below right).





Slam That Sucker Down Your!

NEXT ON DUSTY RHODES' HIT LIST:

TULLY BLANCHARD

In 1984, Dusty Rhodes took care of business on his "TCB Tour '84." But it's 1985 now, and a new year calls for a new tour. Dusty's calling this his "Slam That Sucker Down Tour '85," and already wrestlers in Florida and the Mid-Atlantic have felt his wrath. Next in line for punishment courtesy of "The American Dream": Tully Blanchard

Left: Rhodes ushers Blanchard to his seat. (Dusty would not receive a tip.) Tully lunges through the ropes at The Dream.

Opposite page, far left: Disregarding his dangerous wounds, Dusty Rhodes states to the world his intentions of running Tully Blanchard out of wrestling. Opposite left: Dusty applies a figure-four on the arena floor. Above: The Dream clubs his hated foe. Below: A spinecrusher stuns the "Superbrat."

DUSTY RHODES STOOD in the center of the ring, blood streaming down his face from a large gash opened over his right eye, and screamed to the fans in general—and to Tully Blanchard in particular.

"Listen up everyone, The American Dream here is not gonna stand for any more of this garbage from this kind of scum, you hear me talking? Tully Blanchard, your time has come. It's time to pay for what you been doing all around this here Mid-Atlantic area, daddy!"

Despite the blood pouring into his eyes and the brutality of the match just past, Rhodes was speaking with the energy and passion of a man possessed.

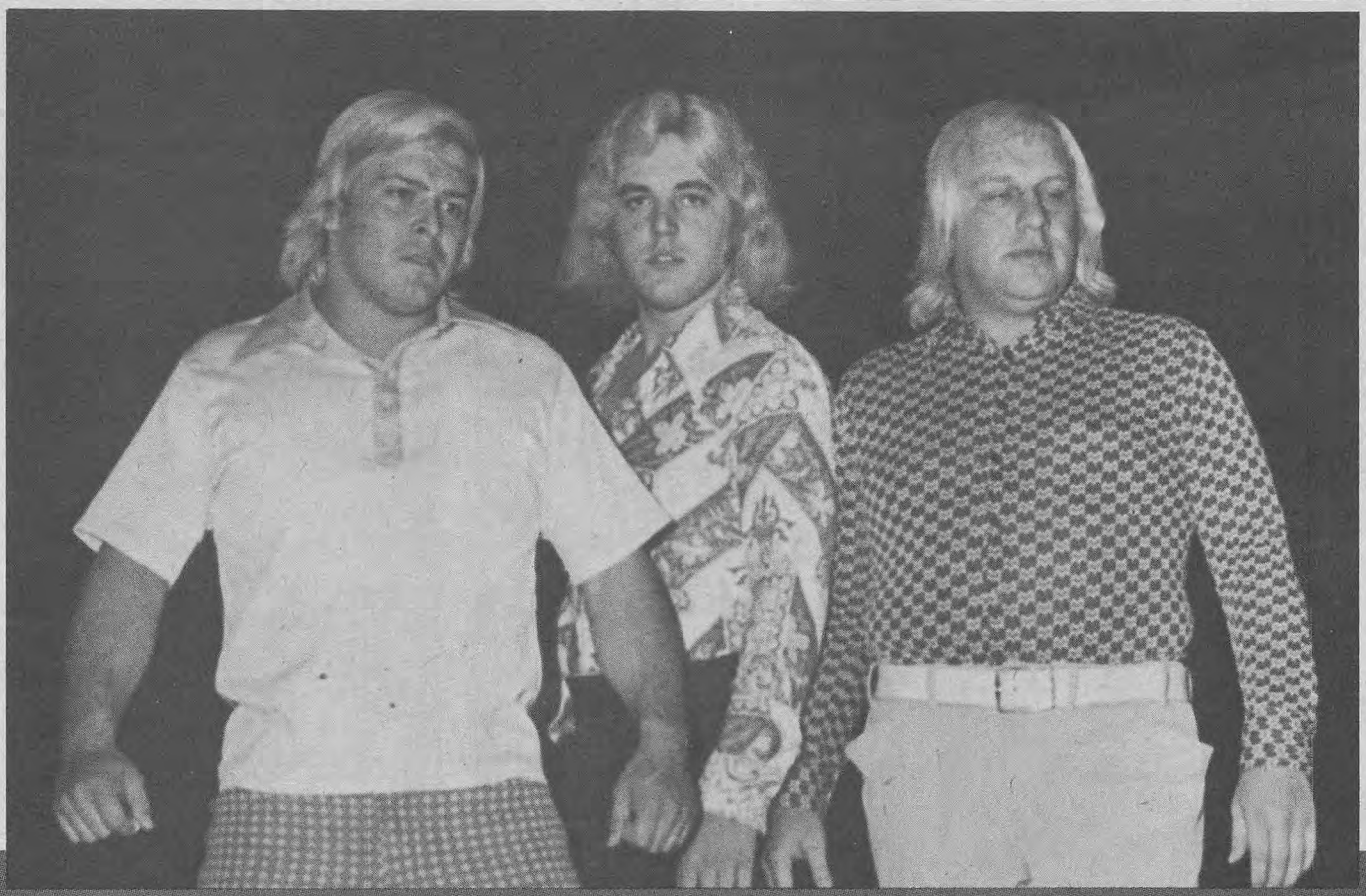
"This is it, jack, 'The American Dream' is gonna collect some dues, daddy, and the first withdrawal is gonna come right from the scaly hide of one Mr. Tully Blanchard!"

Only minutes earlier, Rhodes had been involved in a most brutal match with Blanchard. The fans had come to see Rhodes dish out some punishment to Tully, who has earned the name "Superbrat" several times over.

These fans gained a new measure of respect for Blanchard when they saw how quickly he capitalized on his advantages in the match, how efficiently he waged his attacks on The American Dream, and how brutally he wrestled.

"You know, Tully Blanchard, your game has been played here in the Mid-Atlantic for too long, and it's time for that game to come to an end. This here's 1985, and my 'Slam That Sucker Down Tour' is moving along and going strong. I'm feeling sweet, and you're gonna feel the heat. Got it, brother? Not only you, Blanchard, but that bleached-blonde bimbo you call Baby Doll is gonna pay, too!"

(Continued on page 56)

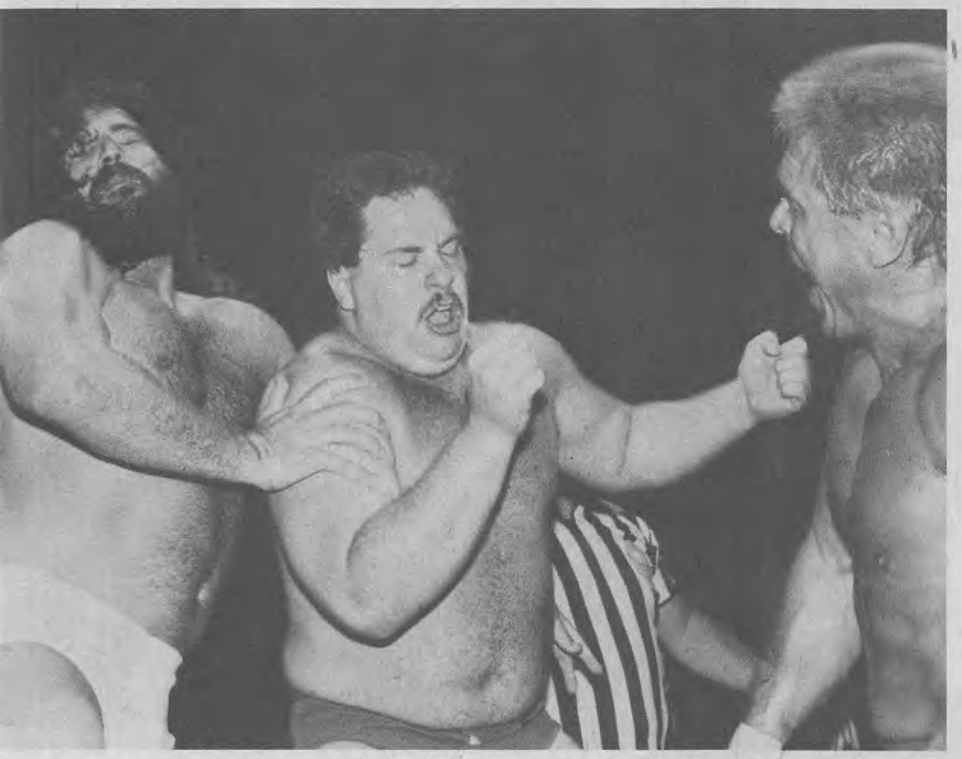


REUNION!

Top: A decade ago, Ronnie and Terry Garvin flank brother Jim. Below: In effect, Precious replaced Terry for the Garvin brother reunion in Montreal.

Above: Back in April 1974, Bobo Brazil chases Jim Garvin up the turnbuckles, as Ronnie Garvin tangles with Earl Maynard.

THE RETURN OF THE GARVIN BROTHERS



Jim Garvin has a tough time controlling Gino Brito Jr. for a double-team effort by his brother. Ronnie did not hear the fans' cheers on this particular night.

Blood ran thickest in Montreal as Ronnie Garvin abondoned his scientific style to come to the aid of his brother, Jim, in the Gorgeous one's feud against Gino Brito Jr. and Dino Bravo

IT WAS FOUR O'CLOCK and the city was a blanket of morning dew. In her center, where for two weeks had once lived thousands of Olympians, the wind's howl funneled up the side of the hotel, treading white noise in its wake, that nudged from their various slumbers—instead of weightlifters and discus throwers—hundreds of businessmen, tourists, and others who had reason to spend that night in Montreal. As the wind raced toward the terraced penthouse, it stopped dead, as if shot, and an unusual calm embraced the hotel's top floors.

Pacing briskly over the purple-blue carpet on the hotel's top floor was Jimmy Garvin. He had not slept this night, nor was he about to. Seated in a deep velvety recliner, with his legs comfortably propped on the dining room table relaxed Jimmy's brother Ronnie. He was trying desperately *to* fall asleep, only to have Jimmy swoop down on him like a hawk whenever his eyes threatened to close.

"Goddamnit Jim, willya let me get to sleep for chrissakes," Ronnie, clearly exhausted, half-begged and half-demanded of his younger brother. We gotta wrestle in nearly 12 hours. You haven't let me sleep for *two days.*"

"Hey man, don't pin this on me!" Jim Garvin crowed, his arms windmilling in emphasis. "This ain't my fault! I don't see you for two years, we talk to each other maybe twice, and then all of a sudden you come blowin' into town yapping about how you gonna help me out against Bravo

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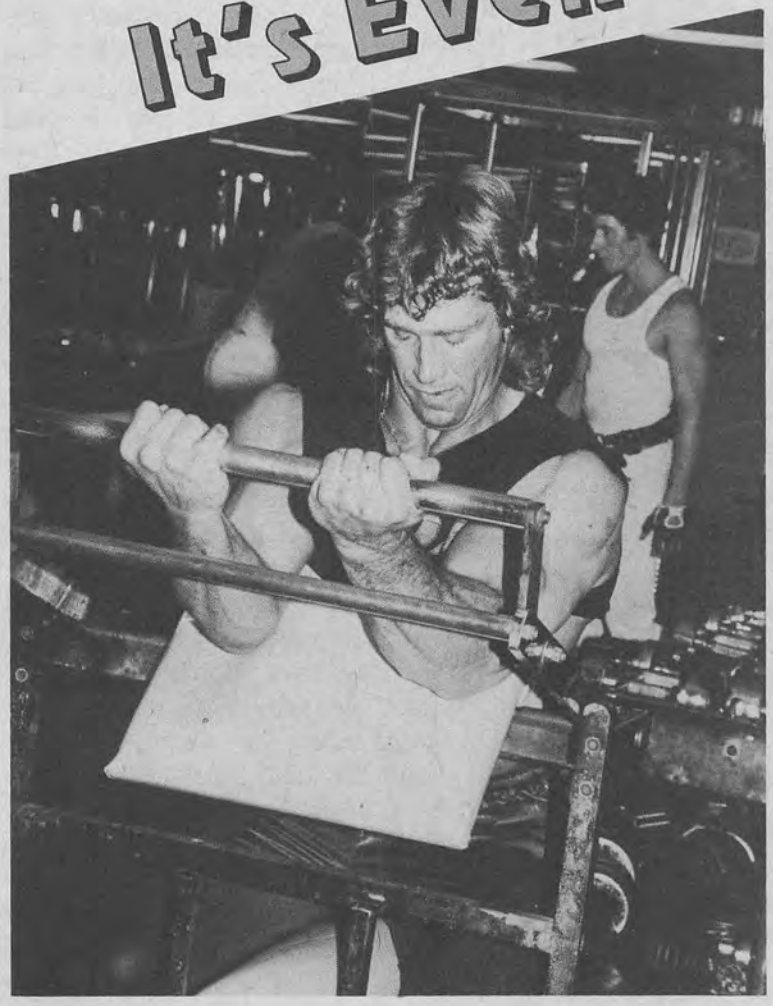
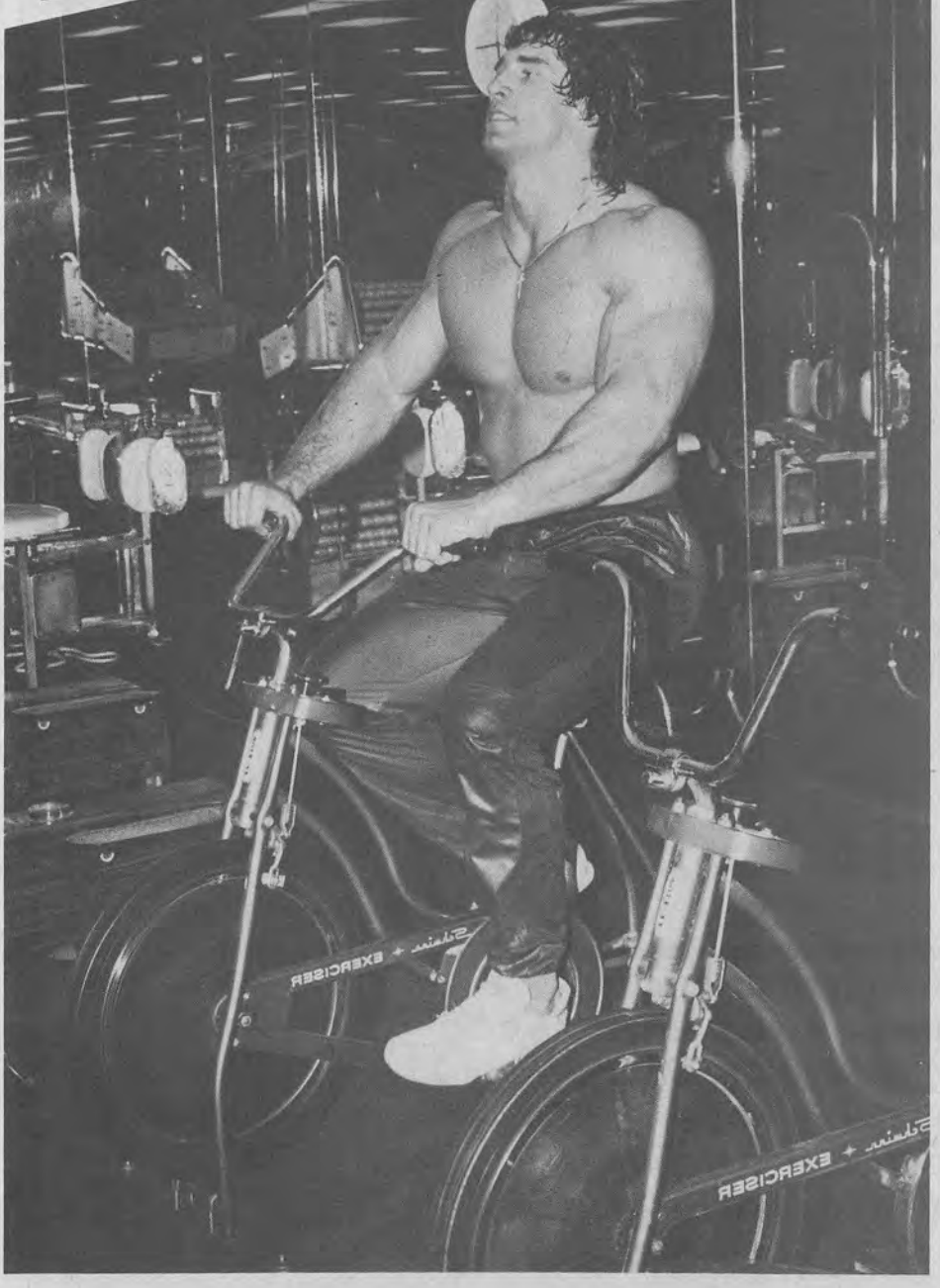
THE KERRY VON ERICH WORKOUT

It's Even Tougher Than Wrestling!





Kerry Von Erich demonstrates a portion of his workout technique. Kerry is quick to point out that there is a lot more to fitness than lifting weights.

By Kerry Von Erich

ANYTIME YOU LOOK at yourself in the mirror, you've got to look at yourself like a sculptor. If you look and you see that your chest needs to be bigger and your waist needs to be smaller, say to yourself, "Well, I need to take some off my waist and put more on my chest." Then you work your diet out to that.

With me, the way my metabolism is, it works out that I can eat pretty much what I want anytime I want. So that's really what I do. With a lot of people, they can eat one piece of bread and it's just like they packed it on their waistline.

That's not that way with myself or my brothers. We're the type of people with the type of metabolism that can't put on weight in the midsection or the waist area. We're fortunate.

A Typical Breakfast

People think I'm a heavy eater, but I'm not. I don't eat a whole lot at one time, but I do eat a lot of times in a day—maybe six or seven meals. But every meal is good food.

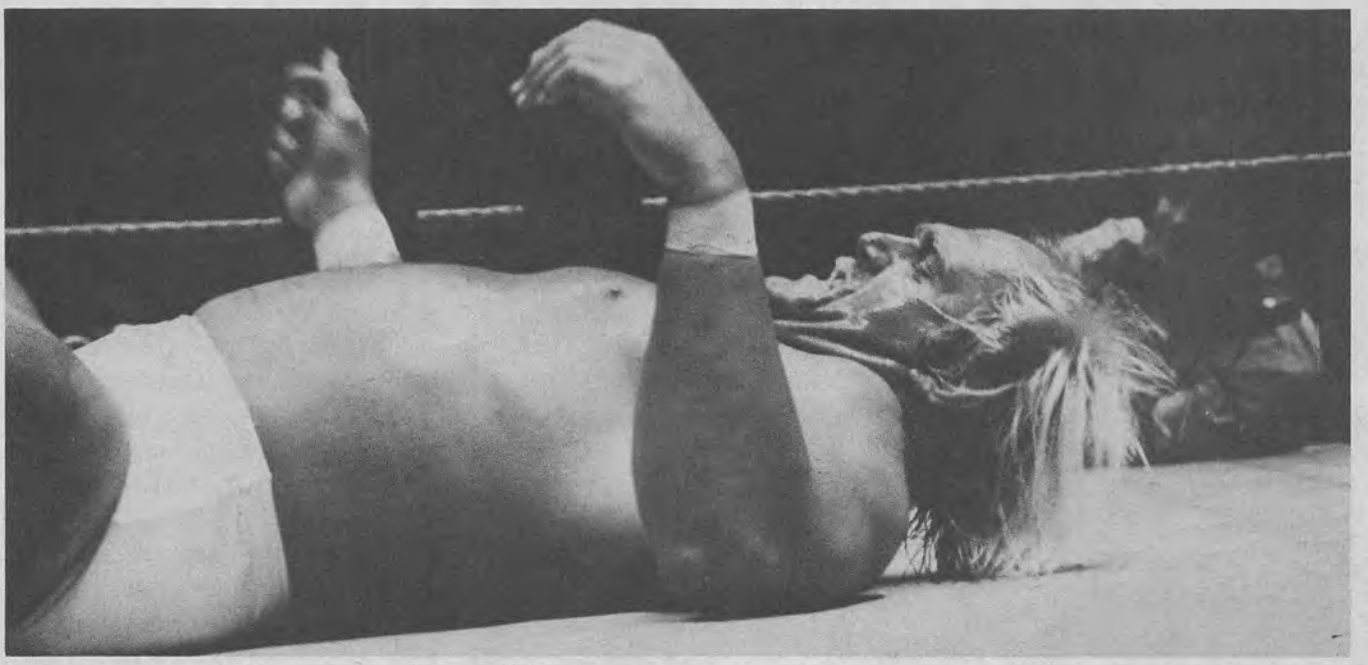
Like for breakfast, six eggs and bacon and a glass of milk, and that's it. But then two hours later, an hour and a half later, I'm having lunch. Now lunch could consist of fish, or a chicken breast, or that sort of thing. It's really pretty basic.

I've been pushing to really cut down on my body fat content, so in the mornings I've been eating nothing but egg whites. I've been eating just boiled eggs all day, taking the yellow out. And when I get tired of eating eggs, I

(Continued on page 60)

Is The Hulkster Burning Out?

GIVE HULK HOGAN A REST



Knowing Magnificent Muraco will be moving in for a pin attempt, Hogan tries to lift himself off the canvas (top). Though he could not move his body, fortunately he had enough strength to push his challenger off before the three-count (above).

Anyone who saw Hulk Hogan's match in "WrestleMania" saw a man consumed by the responsibilities of being champion. Dividing his time between press conferences, talk shows, guest appearances, and training, Hogan desperately needed to rest. He didn't, and now his title reign seems in jeopardy.

AH, THE OFF-SEASON! Music to the ears of hundreds of professional athletes. No pressure, no practice, no games, no reporters. Time away from the limelight, time to rejoin the rest of the human race. Ron Guidry fishes. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar listens to jazz. Wayne Gretzky gives speeches. Walter Payton spends time with his family. And those are the *overachievers.* Most athletes spend their off-seasons in the urgent pursuit of nothing. (Although in all fairness, some players have worked hard on their *tans.*) Athletes, in their own way, imitate fruits and vegetables: when they're out of season, they're unobtainable.

For those of us permanently out of uniform, the rigors of a professional athlete's season are unimaginable. Let's forget about the six and seven figure contracts that delude us into uttering ridiculousness such as, "For that kind of money

I'd get in the ring with Marvin Hagler," or, "For that dough I'd line up opposite Too Tall Jones."

We can all give that jive a rest. After seeing the wounded bodies that file into a locker room after a football game or a basketball game or a prizefight or any other sporting contest where body contact is the rule, one immediately understands how the money is earned. When one realizes that the average career expectancy of a professional athlete is under six years, any second-guessing as to why they earn as much as they do must be tossed. They deserve every penny.

Which brings us around to another contact sport, professional wrestling, and the man many view as its leading attraction, Hulk Hogan. Wrestling is unlike any sport in the world. It is always in season. Promoters do not recognize holi-

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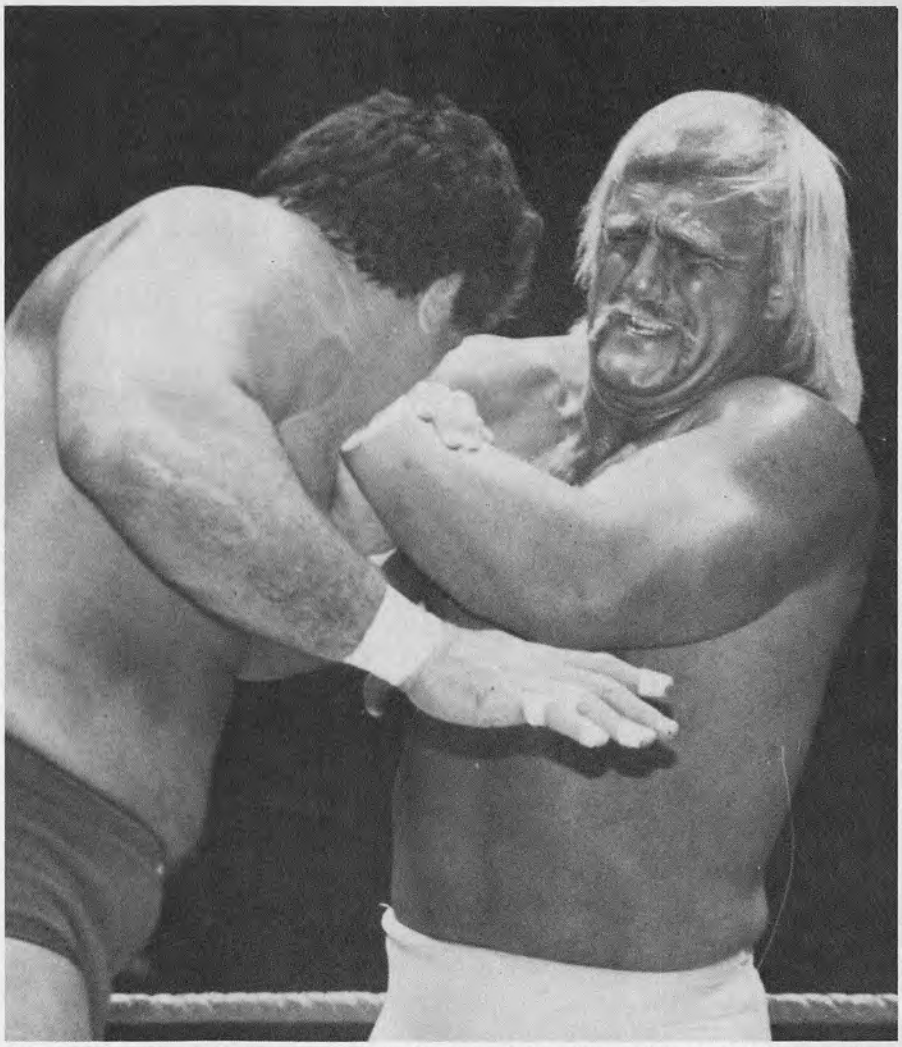
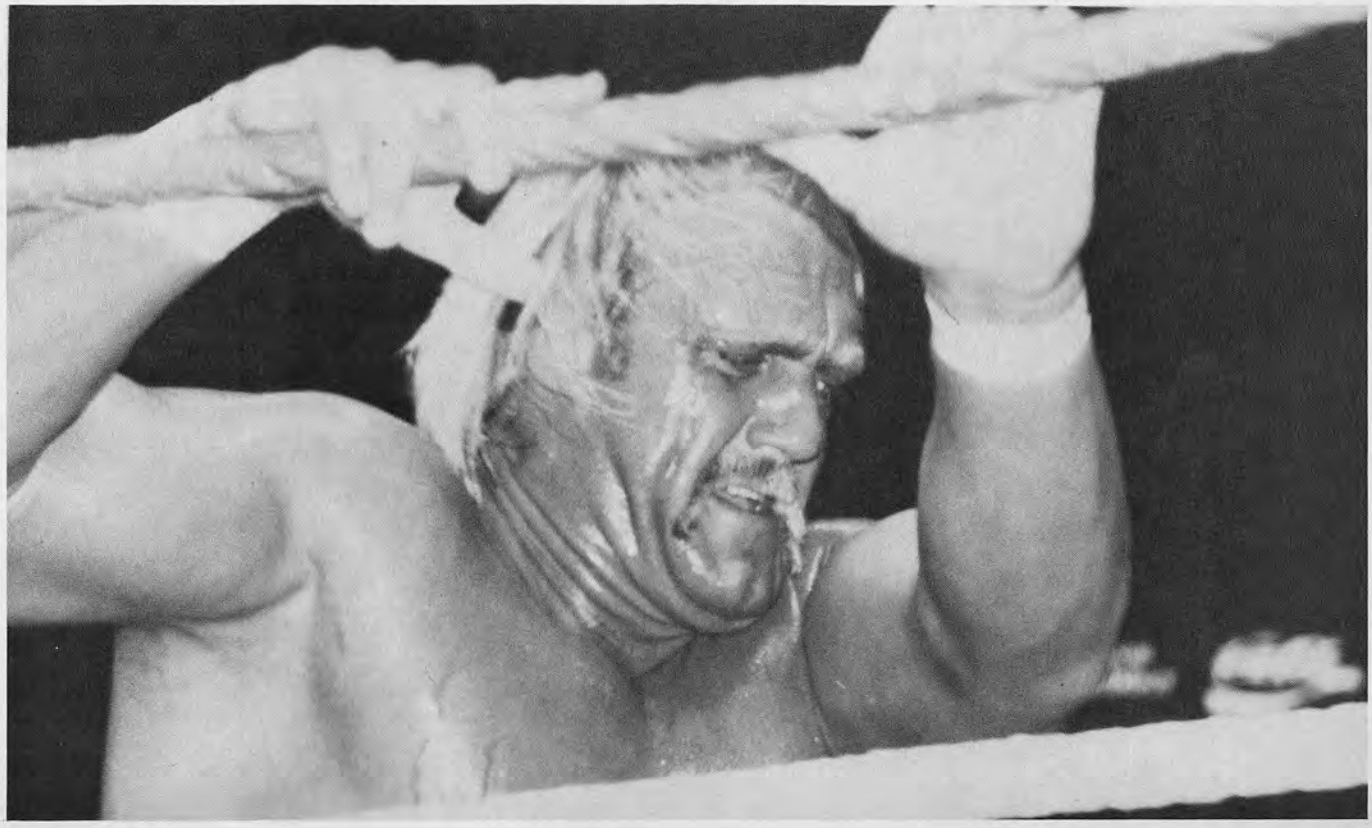
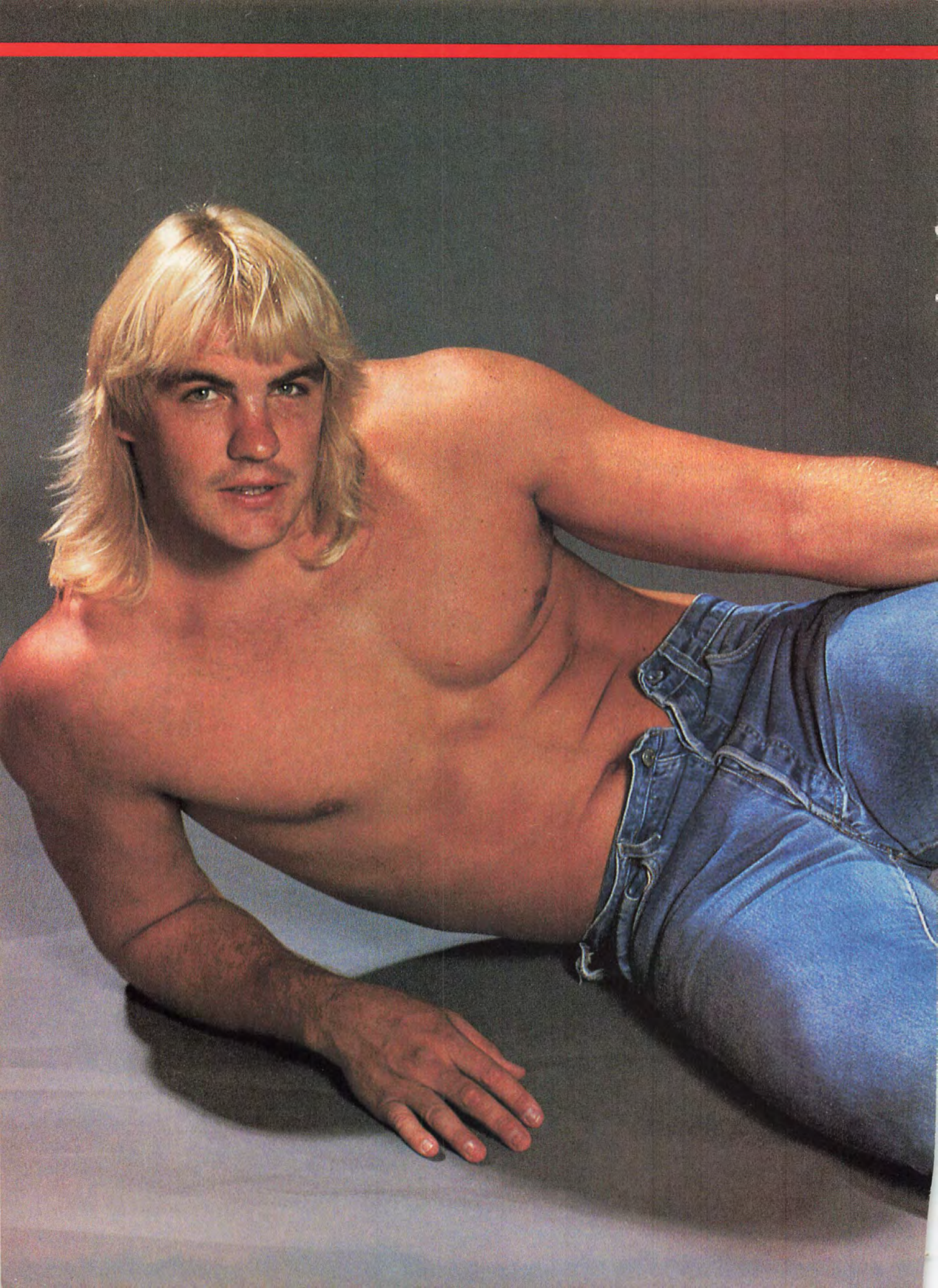
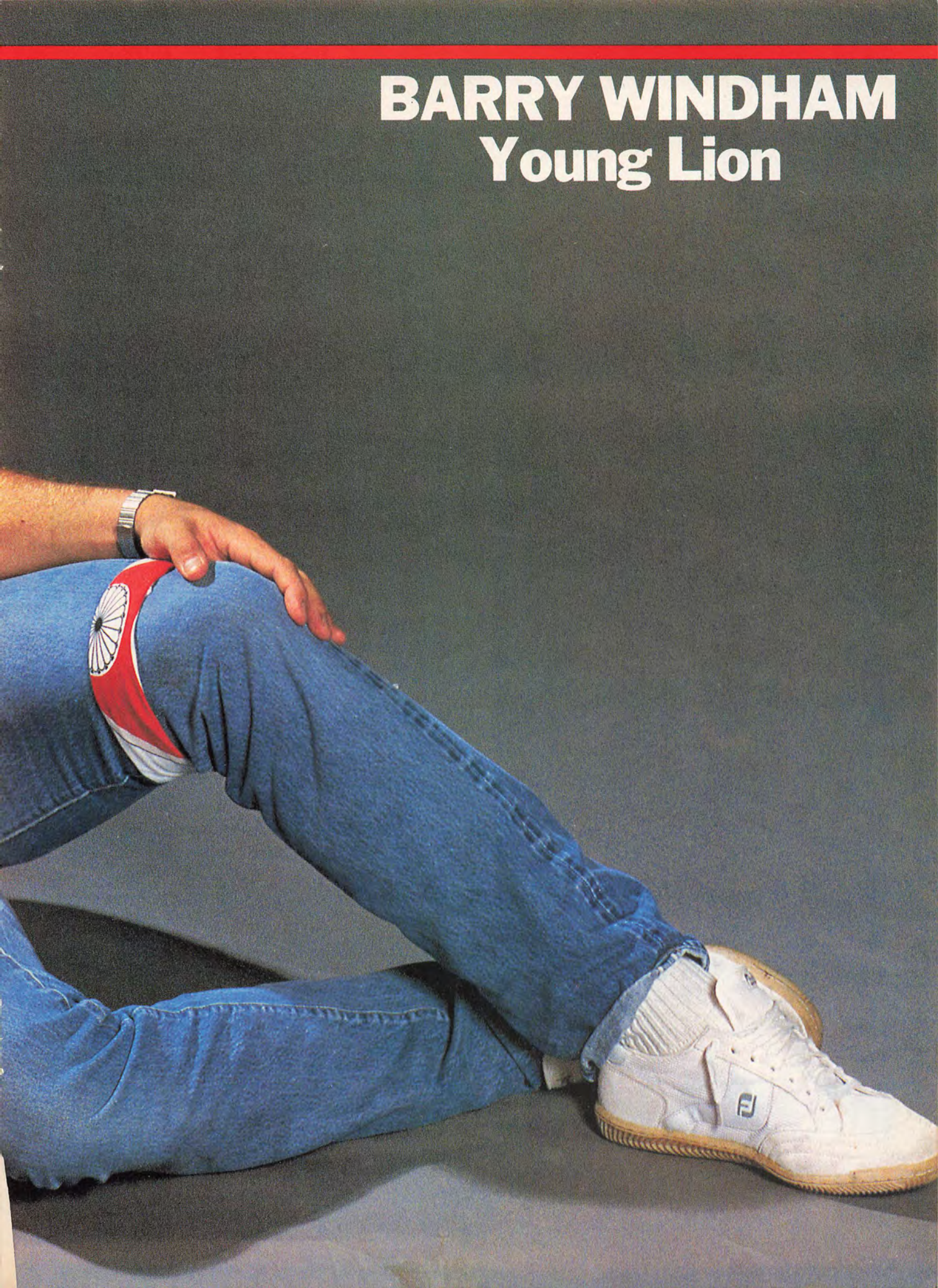


Hogan's face registers pure exhaustion as he applies an armlock on Muraco (above). At this point in the match, even applying a hold is painful. As Muraco is being scolded by the referee on the opposite side of the ring for using his Asiatic spike, The Hulkster has a chance to recuperate (below).





BARRY WINDHAM
Young Lion



PART 1

. . . To A Finish

The Von Erich family's patented iron claw is regarded as one of the most dangerous holds in all of wrestling. Kerry's claw is discussed on page 40.

WRESTLING'S 10 DEADLIEST HOLDS

IF THERE IS one thing that distinguishes the best wrestlers from the rest of the sport's athletes it's an effective finishing maneuver. Honed to perfection, this manuver (or, in some cases, hold) will almost always insure victory when it's executed. Never has there been a champion without a famous finishing maneuver.

In this section, we examine the most famous finishing maneuvers of top wrestling stars. Discussed will be why it works for each man, how he uses it, and its effect on opponents. Some of them are designed to conquer, a few are used to injure, and all are devastating.

If there is one thing they all have in common, it is that each maneuver or hold is particularly suited to the man who uses it. Though many wrestlers may attempt them, only a select few are able to master them. Even those who perfect a finishing maneuver wouldn't pretend they can do several. What works for Rick Martel, for example, would be beyond the abilities of Billy Haynes, and vice versa. Each maneuver requires specific physical attributes to make it work. A wrestler's body dictates what type of finishing maneuver he can master.

Of course, much is revealed about a wrestler's personality by which finishing maneuver he chooses to master. What Chris Adams chooses to do would be unacceptable to Kerry Von Erich. Whether a wrestler is a scientific grappler or rulebreaker has much to do with what he uses as a finishing maneuver, as one would fully expect.

This is part one of a special two-part examination of wrestling's deadliest finishing maneuvers. (Part two will be published in the Spring issue of *Victory Sports Wrestling*.) Five of the most successful men in wrestling discuss their most effective finishing maneuver or hold. Their choices not only reveal much about their wrestling styles but also much about the men.

RIC FLAIR

WRESTLERS WHO HAVE suffered in the clutches of the figure-four leglock know that it is one of the most debilitating holds in all wrestling. It transforms the victim's legs and hips into masses of agony. Even the bravest grappler wants nothing more than to make the pain stop, even if it means surrender. The more a man struggles, the more excruciating the hold becomes. When the figure-four leglock is applied correctly, it's only a matter of time before its victim is forced to beg for mercy.

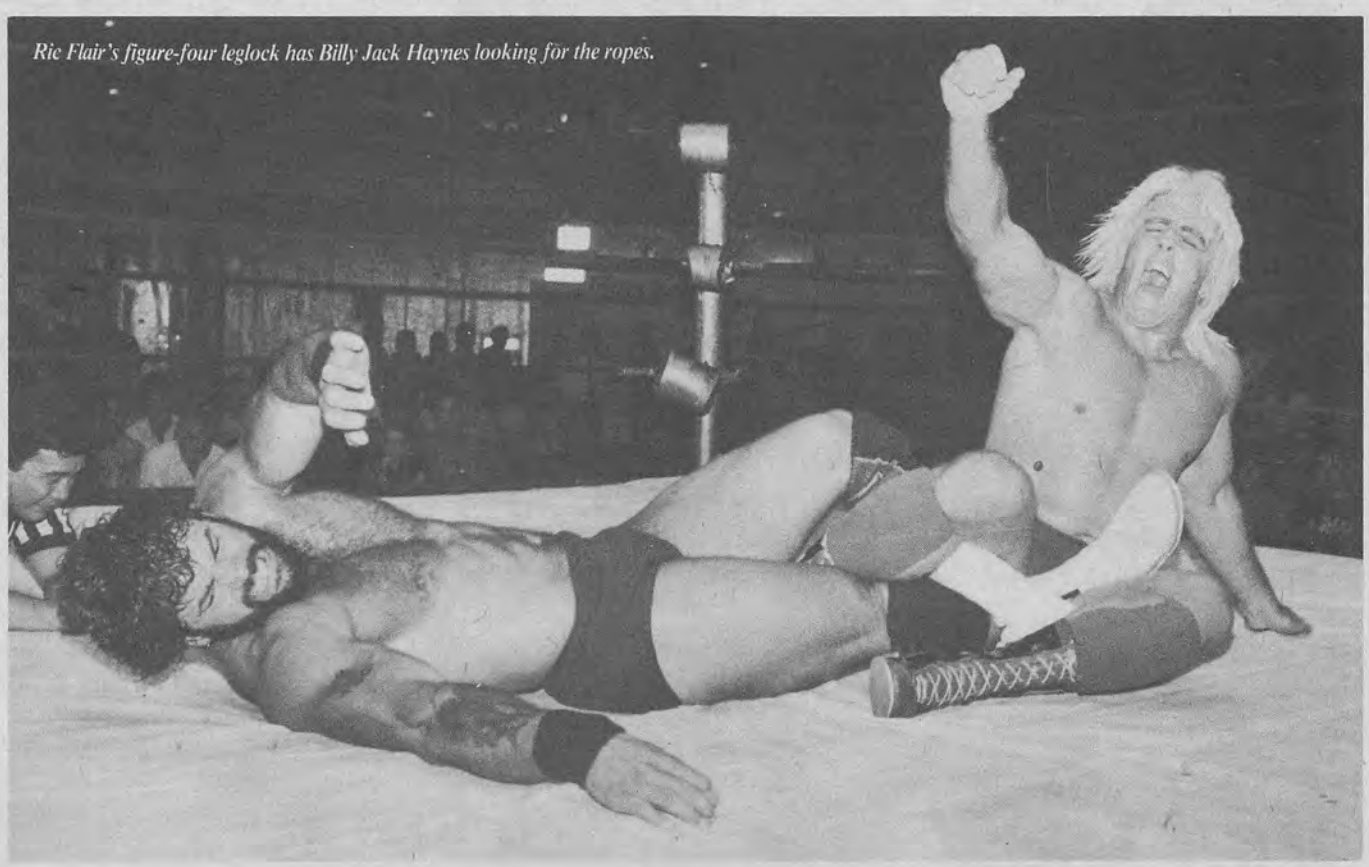
Today, Ric Flair is the most effective practitioner of the figure-four leglock. With a cobra's swiftness, he wraps his legs around his opponent's and then applies the pressure. His foe's twisted limbs are yanked and stretched unmercifully. Due to leverage, it is estimated that the figure-four leglock increases its practioners strength at least fourfold. Nobody's form is as fine as Flair's, which means nobody's figure-four is as powerful.

"It's timing and practice," Flair says about his hold. "Any half-decent wrestler can counter a figure-four if it's not done very quickly. And since my opponents expect it, they're ready to counter. That means I have to be much faster than the average guy applying the hold.

"And unless it's executed perfectly, a good wrestler should be able to break the hold. You see, the poorer it's done, the more energy it requires to do it. A bad figure-four can exhaust the guy who's applying it. Only when it's done perfectly does the figure-four not drain your energy. If I haven't applied it perfectly, I'll break it myself and wait for the right time to apply it again. Too many wrestlers have lost matches trying to win with improperly applied figure-four.

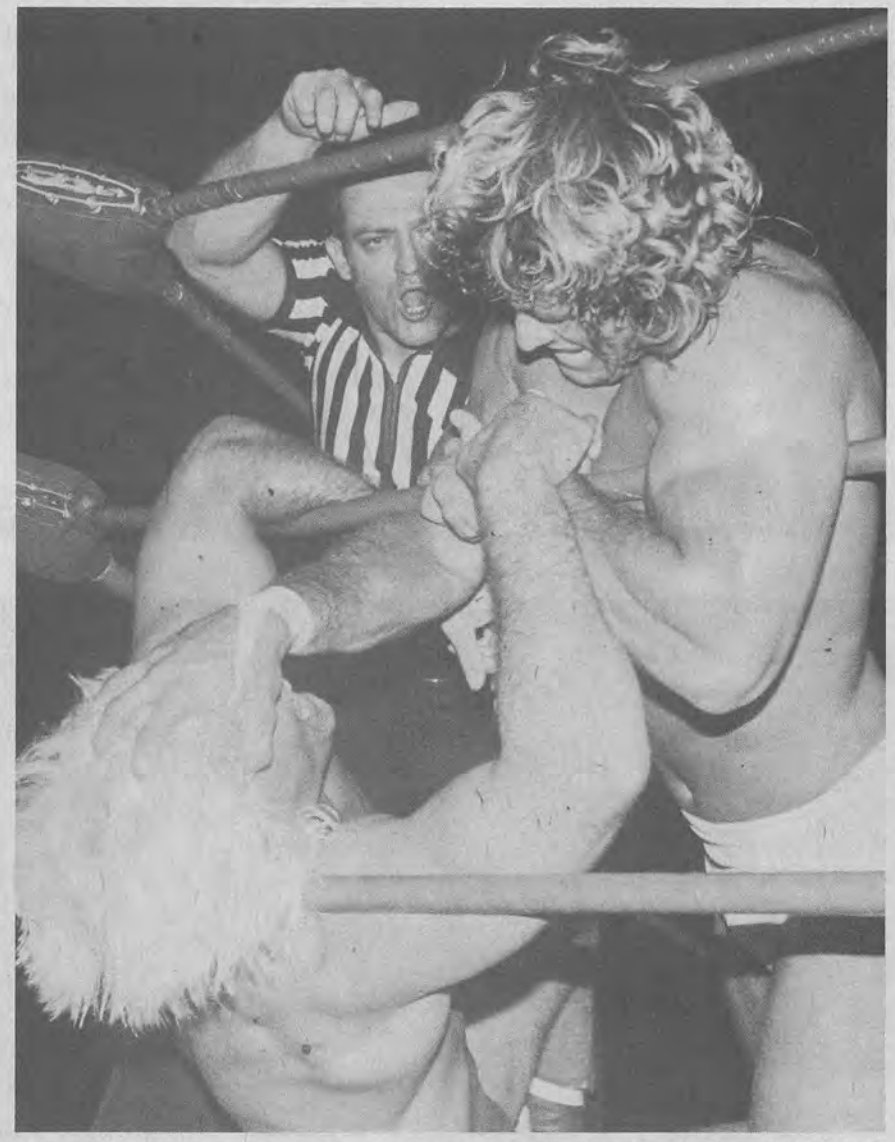
"Done right, there's nothing more effective than a figure-four leglock. There's also nothing harder to do right."

Figure-Four Leglock



Ric Flair's figure-four leglock has Billy Jack Haynes looking for the ropes.

KERRY VON ERICH



Although the iron claw is a legal maneuver, Kerry Von Erich risks disqualification by applying the hold on Ric Flair along the ropes.

ONE OF THE most controversial finishing holds in all wrestling is the clawhold. Those who use it know it will finish off an opponent. Many fear it causes lasting damage to its victims. Done by a rulebreaker, the clawhold can be the most dangerous in wrestling.

Kerry Von Erich is certainly no rulebreaker, being one of the most respected scientific wrestlers in the world. Yet he has chosen the clawhold (or iron claw, as the Von Erichs like to call it) as his finishing hold. As far as Kerry is concerned, the hold is only as dangerous as the man administering it.

"There's no question," Kerry says, "the iron claw is a responsibility. Abused, applied simply to injure, it can be crippling. We've seen that. If it were only a crippling hold I'd not only not use it, but I'd be in the forefront of those demanding it be banned.

"Done legally, the clawhold is devastating but not permanently dangerous. It's applied with the fingers clamping down on either the head, belly, or thighs. Some men will apply it to a foe's neck and that's despicable. The strength of the hold comes from the fingers, forearm, bicep, and shoulder. Granted, it inflicts pain on its victim, but that's not its main function. It drains the strength from a foe, weakening him so he can be pinned. You don't apply the hold longer than necessary. It's the bums that use the clawhold to torture that cause all the controversy.

"We don't need to ban the iron claw. We need better referees with a better understanding of what constitutes wrestling and what qualifies as torture. The referees have to be educated as to what the claw can and should do and when it's being abused. Maybe there should be a time limit on how long a man can apply the claw. That's just one idea."

As far as Kerry's foes are concerned, any amount of time is too long.

Iron Claw

BILLY HAYNES

MANY WRESTLERS can brag about the devastating qualities of their full-nelson, a classic wrestling hold. Yet if you ask wrestlers which full-nelson is the best in wrestling, almost all agree it's the hold administered by Billy Haynes. It's power is awesome and always results in victory.

When Haynes is asked what makes his full-nelson different from any other full-nelso, his response could fill a book. He covers the philosophy of wrestling, physics, bodybuilding, and psychology. According to Haynes, a part of his success with the full-nelson is in the mind of the beholder.

"It's no accident I got a reputation for having a great full-nelson," he explains, "it was a planned campaign. In the beginning, I only used it against those wrestlers that would have the hardest time with it. And then, I'd only apply it when I was absolutely positive it would work. Soon, I got famous for having a great full-nelson. Guys would be scared of it before they even got in the ring. When I did use it, they were ready to surrender. I'd say 50 percent of my hold is psychology."

The above paragraph can also be interpreted as psychology. After all, Haynes did defeat Superstar Billy Graham in a $50,000 challenge to see who had the best full-nelson. By claiming his hold is physically brutalizing, Haynes is playing with his opponent's minds. Billy's cunning should never be underestimated.

Nor, according to his opponents, should his full-nelson. Despite his possible mock modesty, a man trapped in Haynes' full-nelson is soon limp with pain, totally helpless and fit only for surrender. One need only look at Billy's mighty arms to know that the strength of his full-nelson lies somewhere other than his opponent's imagination.

Full-Nelson

Haynes' full-nelson was instrumental in his Florida title victory over Kendo Nagasaki in 1984.

OF ALL THE holds discussed in this section, the most athletic of the successful finishing holds is the flying vault over the ropes. It's the speciality of Rick Martel and is directly responsible for him now holding the AWA World championship.

Against then-AWA champ Jumbo Tsuruta last May, Martel executed a perfect flying vault over the ropes. Standing on the ring apron, he used the ropes as a catapault to send him sailing over the ropes and landing hard on his fallen opponent. The hurtling body crashed into its foe, and Tsuruta wasn't the same afterward.

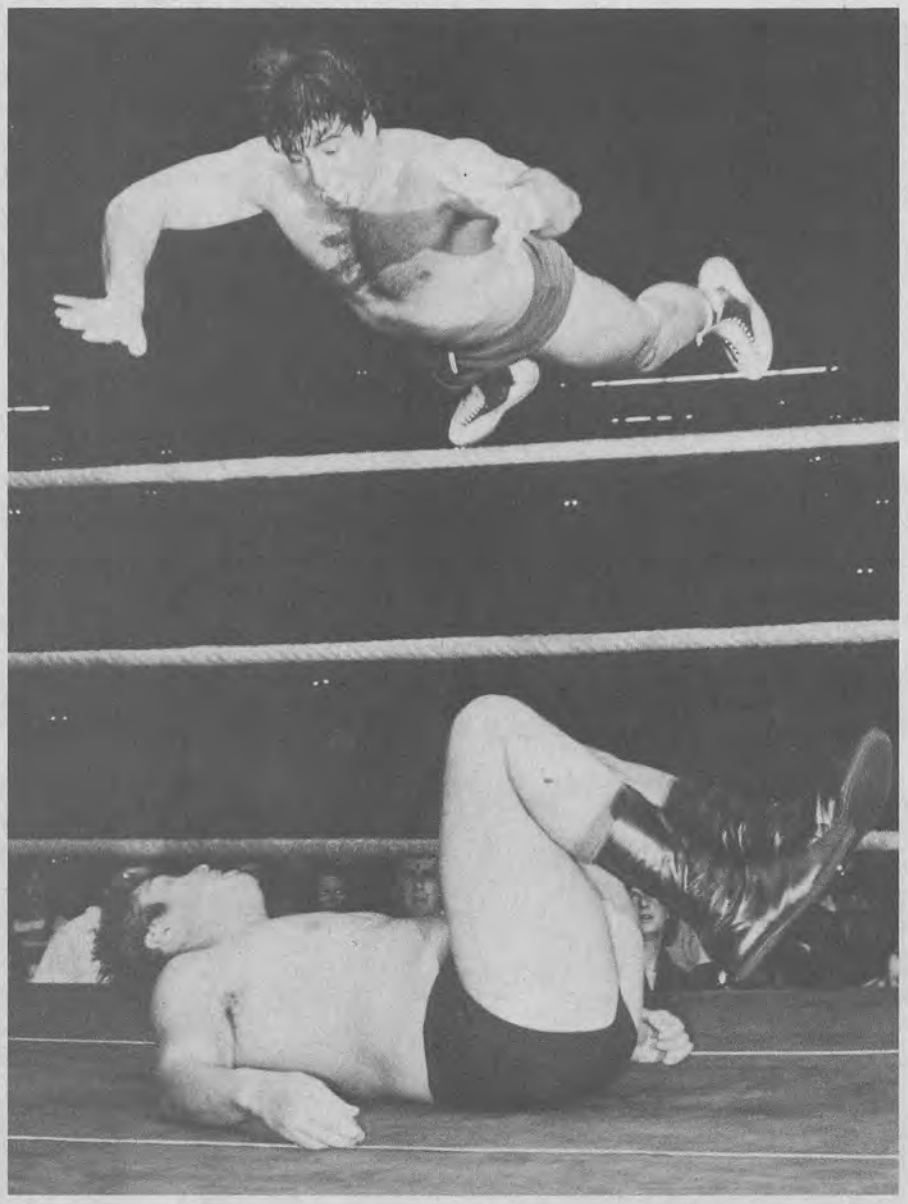
Obviously, this is a very difficult maneuver. It requires agility, timing, grace, and considerable strength. To create enough tension on the ropes to hurtle high and far enough, a wrestler's arms and chest must be incredibly strong. Only the most superbly crafted athlete has the musculature to successfully master the maneuver It is also very dangerous maneuver, as the victim can often see it coming and throw up his knees at the last moment.

Rick, boyishly modest, explains how he came to perfect the maneuver. "Nobody does anything that complicated by choice," he says with a grin. "If I were incredibly strong or big I'd do something much easier. Still, you have to go with what you're born with.

"From the beginning, I realized I'd have to work harder than most to be successful. I've been blessed with a fine body, I know I'm lucky, but it's not the kind of body that allows you to depend on a single attribute. I had to develop my strength and my agility to succeed. I'm not physically endowed enough to make mistakes and survive.

"The flying vault over the ropes is a natural extension of what I do best—work hard at something difficult and do it right time and again."

RICK MARTEL

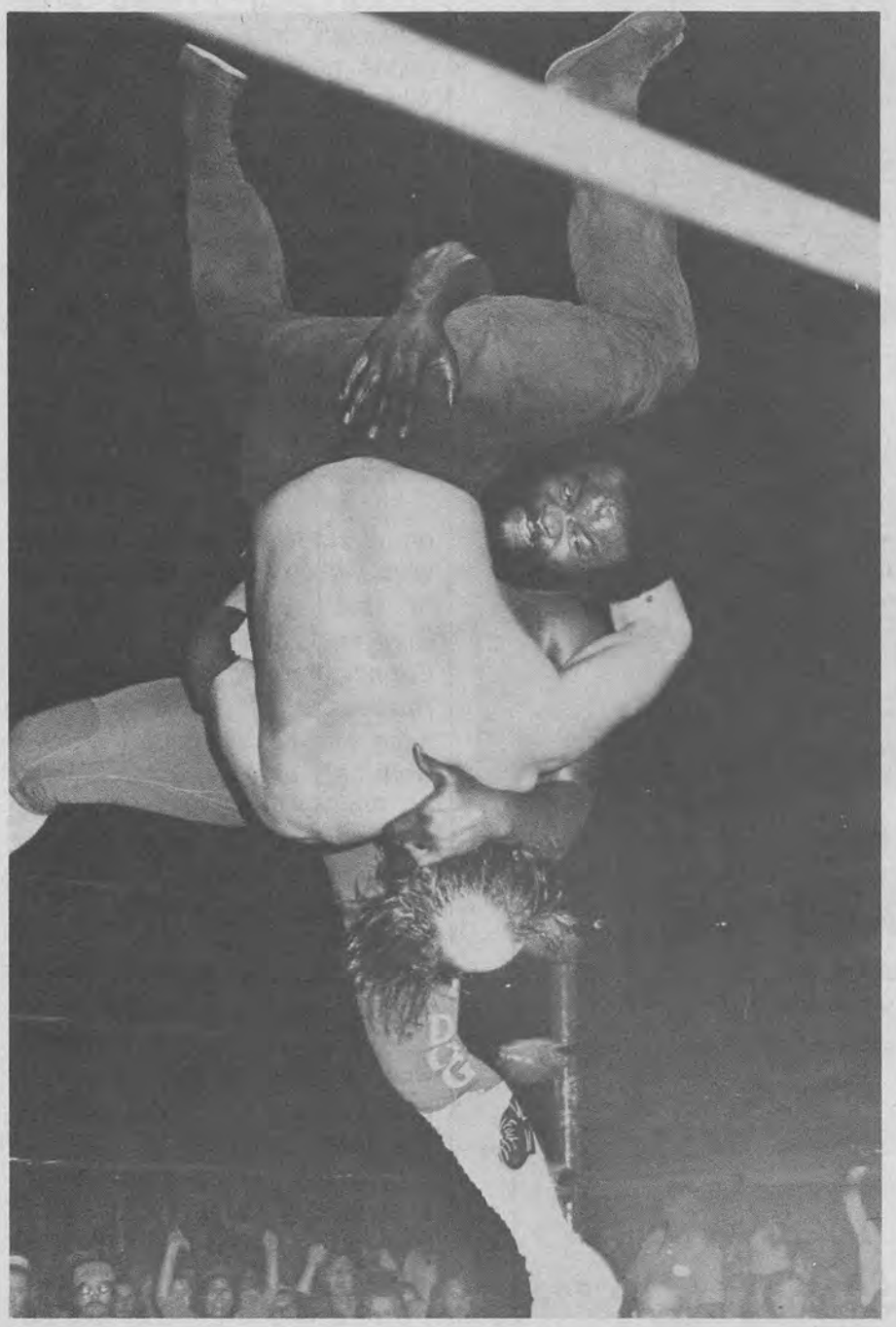


Martel starts the flying vault from the ring apron. Grasping the top rope with both hands, he leans back as far as he can. Then, like a human slingshot, he propels himself over the rope and down upon his opponent.

Flying Vault

JUNKYARD DOG

The Big Thump



TO THE CASUAL observer, the big thump looks like a variation of the powerslam. In truth, this finishing maneuver made famous by Junkyard Dog, is far more complicated and devastating than any powerslam.

Originally, Junkyard Dog was expert at powerslams. As he tells it, in one match his body was woefully out of position when he attempted a powerslam. Surprisingly, he found the result more effective. That sent him back to the gym and he began to explore the new maneuver.

"The powerslam," Junkyard explains, "is a very natural maneuver. The body feels good doing it. Let me, tell you brother, the thump, like JYD himself, is unconventional. The body just doesn't want to do want you tell it to do. You have to physically train your body to move in unnatural ways. That's why almost any wrestler can do the powerslam, but I'm the only one who's really mastered the thump."

Because the body must be twisted in an uncomfortable way during the thump, it requires more strength than the bodyslam. A man's entire frame must be well muscled before he can even attempt it. There must also be the will to devote enough time to perfect the maneuver; a year of practice is necessary before a man can even attempt it in competition. The move is also risky. If the body is only slightly askew during The Thump, the wrestler risks back and leg damage. Dr. Robert Pollak, a wrestling expert since the 1930s, explains, "Unless you have the extraordinary physical abilities of Junkyard Dog, it's a bad idea to attempt this maneuver. The tension created on your body by the weight of your opponent could literally cripple you. It's very dangerous, unless you have Junkyard Dog's physical abilities—and courage."

Junkyard Dog focuses on the spot on the mat at which he will direct all his body weight—and his helpless opponent.

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THE FREEBIRDS

(Continued from page 8)

Paul Ellering think he is, anyway? Maybe we should ask him to prove himself to *us,* right? After all, who have the Warriors beaten lately? Curt and Larry Hennig? Sgt. Slaughter and Jerry Blackwell? I mean, let's be serious, they beat Crusher and Baron Von Raschke for the tag team title. Crusher and Von Raschke! *Hahaha!* That's the funniest thing I heard since somebody told me Gregg was gonna have Cher play with the Allmans!

"Listen, me and Bamm Bamm [Terry Gordy] and Jack [Buddy Roberts], we'll take the Legion of Doom for a walk down Badstreet any ol' time they want to go. And we're not even gonna make them show us what they can do first. But I'll tell you what: In the spirit of Southern hospitality, me and the boys'll put on a little demonstration for *Precious* Paul.

"All anyone has to do is come on up to New Jersey and see what we do to a couple of boys by the names of Hacksaw Duggan, Curt Hennig, and Greg Gagne. From what I understand, *Precious* Paul won't even be there with his Warriors. I wonder what he's afraid of?

"*Precious* Paul. *Ha!* The only other person I know named 'Precious' is a little blonde down Texas way. *Hahaha!*"

•

Paul Ellering and The Road Warriors were *not* on the same card as The Fabulous Freebirds when the 'Birds made their first appearance in New Jersey's Meadowlands Arena.

It was a most impressive debut. In short, they dismantled the team of Hacksaw Duggan, Curt Hennig, and Greg Gagne.

"Ain't no way three skinny

wimps like that can give us Badstreeters a hard time," said Terry Gordy. "This match was like a day in the country for us—and that gives you a little bit of an idea what Freebirds like to do in the country!"

During the postmatch press conference, Hayes was basking in the glory of the victory when he noticed a man standing against the wall in the back of the dressing room, a man that he hadn't seen before.

"Hey, you! Yeah, you! Wake up, brother! I ain't never seen you back here before. Who you with?"

The man replied with quiet politeness. "I'm just here to cover the matches tonight, just like everyone else in this room."

"You work for Ellering, don't you?"

The man remained silent.

"Yeah, well you probably do. Well, when you go back to Ellering, tell him this. In fact, pencil jockeys, you all tell this to Ellering if you see him: Take tonight as an example. We Badstreet 'Birds were a flock of Southern gentlemen tonight. We demolished those three clowns without breaking any bones—that's gentlemanly, ain't it?

"Well, tell Ellering this: We want The Road Warriors. We want them in the ring, and we want their tag team belts. The Warriors' been riding high in the AWA, but that's only because there hasn't been any team there that can challenge 'em. We're in the AWA now, and we're challenging them. And that means that the AWA belts are gonna be the 'Birds' belts, and I mean soon!"

•

Apparently Ellering got the message: Several days after the Freebirds' match with Duggan, Hennig and Gagne, Ellering sent a set of match contracts to Hayes, Gordy, and Roberts. One of those contracts was for a Meadowlands match to take place between the Warriors and Hayes and Gordy, with Paul Ellering and Buddy Roberts staked at ringside for the match. You can read about the results of that match in the pages of the November 1985 Sports Review Wrestling, *which is available as a back issue.* □

ROCK 'N' ROLLS

(Continued from page 12)

would strip them of their title, or at least hit them with a heavy fine and a stiff warning. But they never said a thing about it. Those Russians had the NWA intimidated."

Perhaps. Or maybe there was political pressure being applied from the outside to prevent further chill to the cold war. Either way, I found the whole situation embarrassing. When three anti-Americans (two Russians and a Russian sympathizer) are given an unfair advantage over Americans by an American-based organization, something has to be done.

Manny Fernandez has talked time and again about the match in which he and Rhodes were cheated out of the NWA tag team title by the Koloffs, and obviously he doesn't want to talk about it anymore, but I do. With referee Tommy Young injured an unable to supervise the action, Ivan took on Manny inside the ring while Dusty and Nikita battled on the arena floor. Manny took the advantage over Ivan, but when he attempted to pin the veteran Russian, Khrushchev interfered in the match, leaping upon Manny's back from the turnbuckles. As Khrushchev saw referee Young beginning to regain consciousness, he placed Ivan on top of Manny and scurried out of the ring. Young, who missed all of this, made the three-count and declared new champions.

Now this match was taped, and the NWA officials knew that what had happened was illegal. Yet they did nothing about it. Another case of Russians receiving preferential treatment over Americans. When it came time to decide if the Russians should be permitted to share the title among three people, maybe they used the match against Rhodes and Fernandez as evidence in their favor. After all, Khrushchev played as much of a roll in the title change as the Koloffs did!

It was about five years ago, if memory serves, when The Freebirds incorporated their three-man tag team and claimed the legal right to use any two men of their choosing to defend their Georgia National tag team championship. They hired expensive lawyers who intimidated the NWA into a passive position. Seeing the possibility of a lengthy legal battle, the NWA did not rule against The Freebirds. Thus, a precedent was set, although it wasn't taken advantage of until the teaming of Koloff, Koloff, and Khrushchev. It's a fitting irony that the Russians' unethical plan for NWA dominance was actually the cause of their demise. Ivan and Nikita Koloff were the best tag team combination the Russians could put into a ring. Khrushchev is good, but Ivan and Nikita are both Koloffs and they are both native-born Russians. While Ivan spent two months training his nephew for an NWA World title match with Ric Flair, the NWA World tag team title became secondary. Ivan Koloff, the brains behind the triumverate, made a serious error in underestimating the challenge of Morton and Gibson, the former Mid-South tag team titlists.

The Russians got greedy and, as a result, careless. Now that they are no longer champions, the NWA doesn't have to be embarrassed to address the situation anymore. Now maybe the most respected wrestling organization in the world will get tough. □

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LOU THESZ

(Continued from page 15)

were lean years, years I spent wondering when things were going to fall into place. It was like the kid who won the title was a different person from the wrestler who was pushing 30 and wondering if he was in the right profession.

Q: So when you won the title for the fifth time in 1948, you made sure to hang on to it for a while.

A: I had it for almost nine years and I figure I traveled about 250,000 miles a year. I also figure I made about a dollar a mile.

Q: How did your last title reign, from 1963 to 1966, differ from the first?

A: Oh, my God! They were like night and day. I was a much better wrestler back in '63. I made so many mistakes when I was young. And you can tell by how short a time I was able to hold on to my first three titles. Wrestling is all experience. At least it was back in my day.

Q: How is it different today?

A: Wrestling has changed so dramatically over the last 20-30 years that they are almost two entirely different sports. In my day, men wrestled. Today everyone must have a gimmick. One guy needs music, another guy needs a costume, another guy needs a valet. A couple of guys, like Backlund and Bruiser Brody and Billy Robinson, they are doing the sport justice. Even The Iron Sheik is a great wrestler, despite his costume.

Q: What was your reaction toward Gorgeous George when he first came on the scene?

A: George actually was not a bad wrestler, although he was too light to win a championship. I put him away in six minutes. After the war, there was a rush of freak and gimmick wrestlers, but none of them were able to draw a full house. I looked past George's pomp and viewed him as a wrestler. And as a wrestler he was alright.

Q: What about the trend toward the big, strong and muscular wrestler nowadays? One who is big on power but short on science.

A: I'm not quick to call a fella like Hulk Hogan a wrestler. Hogan is a result of better nutrition and weight training. He can't wrestle himself out of a paper bag—but then he doesn't have to. His strength can compensate for what he doesn't know technically. He reminds me a lot of Dick the Bruiser when he first started wrestling. Short on skill, long on power.

Q: And you're critical of this kind of wrestler.

A: It's hard not to be. I remember men who would wrestle with broken bones and still perform some of the most dazzling, spectacular moves you would ever see. Some men fought their entire careers without ever getting a title shot. Today, these guys are paid ridiculous amounts of money to brawl, and it seems as if there is a title for every wrestler. It's a little ridiculous.

Q: In the past you've criticized current NWA champion Ric Flair as being too pompous and conceited and for not giving the NWA title the respect it deserves. Has your opinion changed at all?

A: You'll notice that on my list of the top 10 wrestlers in the past 20 years [published in *The Wrestler*,

October 1985], Ric Flair is number three. His ability as a wrestler is unquestionable. It's his style and arrogance that annoys me. I was proud and humble to be champion. I respected the title because I knew how hard it was for me to win it and how quickly I could lose it. Flair treats it with contempt. He never fears losing the title, because he has no pride. He'll disqualify himself whenever he is in danger of being pinned. That's something no one in my era would have done. Flair has the talent to be one of the greatest champions of all time, yet he seems to be a rather poor caretaker of his talent. Choosing the easy way does not a great champion make.

Q: Are you bitter about the widespread appeal that some of these "brawlers" have enjoyed lately now that a lot of them have affiliated themselves with rock 'n' roll?

A: I'm not a bitter man. I enjoyed tremendous success all over the world. And I make more money now from my business interests than I did in the ring, so I'm not bitter over the millions of dollars that wrestlers with half my skill make. Disappointed is a better word. Wrestling was a proud sport in my day. It still is, but it's tarnished. As long as men like Brody and Carlos Colon and Antonio Inoki are around, wrestling will survive. The Rock 'n' Wrestling connection will blow away. Things like that always do.

Q: I must ask this question: In your prime, do you think you could have wrestled and defeated a wrestler like Hogan or one of The Road Warriors?

A: I think everyone's first reaction would be to say, are you kidding? Thesz would be crushed by any one of those guys. I've got news for you. I'd stack half a dozen wrestlers from my era against Hogan. We had savvy. We knew the ring and we made every ounce of skill work for us. And we were

(Continued on page 48)

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LOU THESZ

(Continued from page 47)

tough. Growing up during the Depression made you tough. What we lacked in weight we made up for in a dozen other ways.

Q: Are there any positive things to happen to wrestling in the past 20 years?

A: Of course! Of course there are. I don't want to come off as one of those old guys who think that everything new is terrible. The wrestlers' personalities have added a lot to the sport. As long as they leave the talk behind when they get into the ring and show they can wrestle, I don't think any harm can come out of having a little bit of charisma. Plus, there are more daring moves than there were in my day. Some of these guys fly around the ring like they have wings. Wrestling today is still the most exciting sport in the world. It just gets crazy once in a while. □

STEAMBOAT

(Continued from page 20)

for 30 seconds that there isn't a mean streak anywhere in him. I can't think of more than four or five other people in this world that I can say that about—and one of *them* is Mother Teresa.

But for the last two years or so, Steamboat's been letting his career flounder. He's been running nowhere on the proverbial treadmill, uncertain of whether to devote himself to his gym in Charlotte, North Carolina, or to his quest of Flair's NWA World title, or to attempt to strike some sort of a balance in between.

Steamboat tried all three alternatives at one point or another over the last three years, but he never seemed to possess the total conviction that he needed in order to be wholly successful at any one of them.

Then the call came to compete in the WWF. Steamboat answered the call, and that was a very big step in his career.

Let's understand this from the proper perspective: The most important thing isn't that he's wrestling in the WWF in particular (although his tag team reunion with Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka is one of the brighter aspects of an otherwise depressing and dismal WWF scene these days).

No, the importance of this step comes in the fact that Steamboat sat down and *made the decision.*

No longer will Steamboat go back and forth between retirement and full-time competition. No longer will he decide whether to remain in Charlotte and run his gym or to stick to the mat wars.

Steamboat was faced with a choice: To wrestle in the Mid-Atlantic near his gym and likely remain on the same treadmill that he's been riding all along, or to make the move to the WWF.

So Steamboat made the move, and with that move came a commitment. And this commitment means that Steamboat is now dedicating himself to the mat sport more than he has for at least two years, and probably for about four or five!

And he is getting favorable responses all over.

- The fans in Miami see Steamboat team with Snuka to beat WWF champions The Iron Sheik and Nikolai Volkoff—albeit by the champs being counted out of the ring—and they cheer, for Steamboat has wrestled brilliantly.
- The fans in Cleveland see Steamboat battle Cowboy Bob Orton to a double-disqualification and they cheer, for Steamboat is exhibiting a style and excellence that is seldom seen within the squared circle.
- The fans all across the country who watched *Saturday Night's Main Event* on NBC see Steamboat team with former WWF tag team champs Barry Windham and Mike Rotundo against Sheik, Volkoff, and George Steele. And they cheer, because Steamboat's excellence in the ring far outshines the plodding maneuvers of Hulk Hogan, the crazed hyperventilations of Roddy Piper, the asinine presence of Cyndi Lauper—both in the ring and plugging her newest video—, Mr. T, and the embarrassing Mother's Day celebration in which Gene Okerlund and Fabulous Moolah fall into a cake.

What's most admirable about Steamboat is that he—so far—seems to be able to transcend the circus antics of the WWF and deal with the federation on his own terms: professional wrestling terms.

The fans recognize this, appreciate this, and want to see more.

Instant stardom? In a way; maybe for the WWF fans who've never heard of the NWA and of Rick's previous achievements. But it's also a case of quality transcending rubbish.

And whether it's in the WWF or the NWA or anywhere else, a revitalized and determined Rick Steamboat is a thing of beauty to behold. □

LARRY ZBYSZKO

(Continued from page 25)

on a cut opened by a foreign object.

Pressure supplanting skill. Both McEnroe and Zbyszko obviously have the skills necessary to win, but the pressures accompaning their title tilts have been paralyzing. How else can one account for the crumbling John McEnroe underwent when, up two sets to none against a weakening Ivan Lendl in the 1984 French Open finals, he dropped the next three sets without resistance. Or, how does one explain Larry Zbyszko's domination of Bob Backlund during a 1980 battle for the WWF championship that ended with Backlund's inexplicable pin of Zbyszko?

They don't want it bad enough. It's hard to believe that both of these men would stop at anything to

(Continued on page 50)

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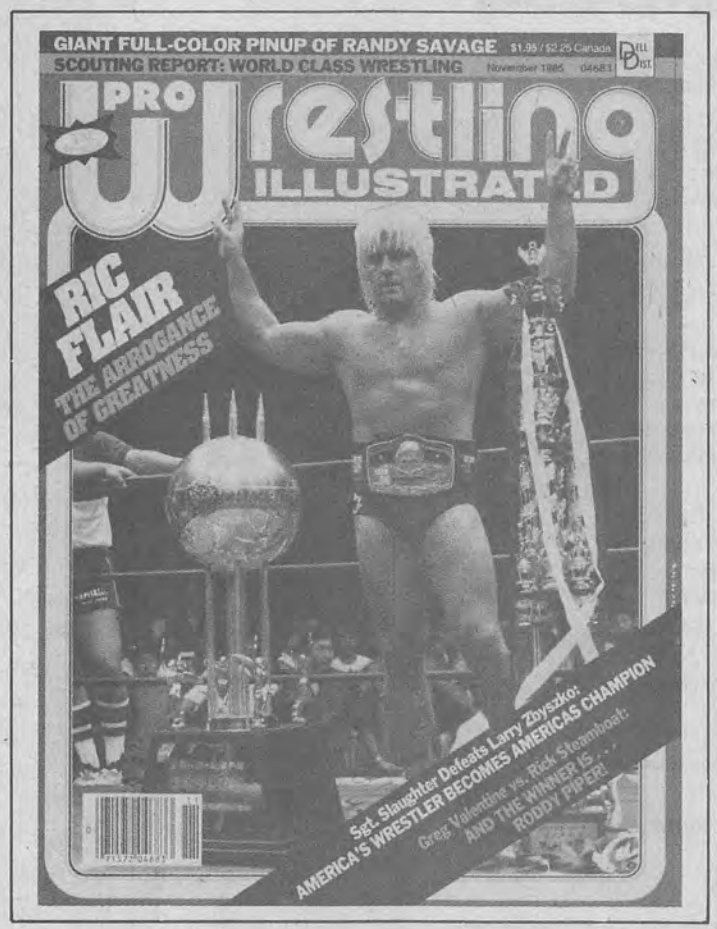

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LARRY ZBYSZKO

(Continued from page 48)

silence the shipload of critics that have haunted them since day one of their careers. At least McEnroe has Wimbledon, Forest Hills, and Australia to fall back upon. Owning the Americas title for three months is hardly an occasion to boast. Believe us, Zbyszko wants it, perhaps more than anyone in wrestling.

Feuds. In the 1980 finals of Wimbledon and the French Open, McEnroe jumped out to an early lead against archrival, Bjorn Borg, only to watch like a spectator as Borg thundered back to victory in both matches. The glacial demeanor of Borg, combined with McEnroe's urgent struggle to remove the Swedish monkey from his back, contributed to McEnroe simply falling apart. He played the personality rather than the opponent. Zbyszko's entire career—post Bruno—has been one of constant feuding, of allowing emotions to overwhelm ring skills and being unable to separate bitterness and excellence. As long as Zbyszko allows his hostility to cloud his strategy, he'll continue pining for a championship.

On the other hand (we left the one hand suspended in tangent about four paragraphs back), Larry Zbyszko might belong to that intem-

perate minority of wrestlers who could not care less about titles, belts, and other such adornments. "I don't give a good goddamn about titles," he barked in reply to our question. "Titles are for idiots like Sgt. Slaughter. Men like him need labels. They need medals. They need fans cheering for them like bleating sheep. They are so insecure that without constant public approval they cry. Like little children.

"So I can't hold on to a belt, can I? Who needs a belt? They're confining. With belts come rules. All of a sudden you have old men telling you when to defend it, how often, and against who. I need that? Titles are for wimps without direction. They're for people who need to be pointed in the right direction their whole lives.

"Without a title, I'm still in demand. Without a belt, I'm still highly paid. And believe me—if I felt it were necesary to confirm my greatness by winning a world title, I would do it. It's easy. It's no problem."

By attempting to shift the emphasis away from a championship's importance, Zbyszko is doing just the opposite. One need only review the films of his match against Sgt. Slaughter to understand how catastrophic it was to Zbyszko's ego to lose his Americas title to the Sergeant. And how can Zbyszko account for the $25,000 he once paid Killer Brooks to buy the National title? He refused to comment on either issue, although the answer is quite clear.

What Larry Zbyszko needs is a manager strong enough to handle his runaway ego and penchant for self-destruction. A good manager would channel Zbyszko's hostility into productive methods of action, which should result in a lengthy, vicious—this is Larry Zbyszko we're talking about—and satisfying title reign. But Zbyszko must recognize his lack of self-discipline himself, since no one is breaking down his door to help. □

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PUZZLE ANSWERS

(Continued from page 22)

THE MISSING LINK

(Continued from page 27)

"Oh, but of course you are, Edward. Who are you to judge your moods? But if you're really not interested I suppose I could go elsewhere with all this information on The Link.

"Because that's what this is all about, Edward. The Link. It's finally time to talk."

I stared at my food. The won ton soup looked remarkably like what used to seep out of my uncle's corns when he slept. My appetite made a sudden turn from China and headed toward Parts Unknown. Or maybe Parts to be Known.

"You got my ear, Percy. Make it good."

•

And Pringle really did have my ear, as anybody did when the subject turned to The Missing Link. The Link first caught my eye about four years ago, when I was down in New Orleans visiting some friends. We took in a card at the Superdome and it was there that I saw Link wrestle Ted DiBiase, who was then a favorite of the fans.

The Link was managed by Gen. Skandor Akbar, who was able to control his erratic and apparently dangerous behavior with an ease that aroused my curiosity. What was the source of Akbar's influence? Was it a word? A potion? Some ritualized incantation?

My reportorial instincts also prickled at the Link's introduction as being from Parts Unknown. What the hell is that supposed to mean? Everyone has a birthplace, has origins, and roots. Who were Link's parents? What kind

(Continued on page 54)

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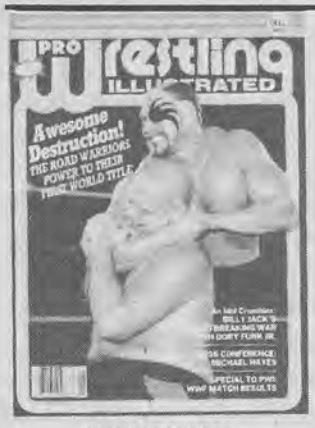

JANUARY 1985

July 1980/COLOR STARSHOT: The Sheik. Cover story: Bruno Sammartino. PLUS: Wrestling II, Race, Ladd, Albano.

August 1980/COLOR STARSHOT: Koloff and Smirnoff. Cover story: Bruno vs. Zbyszko. PLUS: Idol, Von Erichs, Rhodes, Hogan.

June 1982/COLOR POSTER: Nick Bockwinkel. Cover story: Adonis & Ventura. PLUS: Snuka, Patera, Flair.

August 1982/COLOR POSTER: Dino Bravo. Cover story: Steamboat & Rich. PLUS: Andre, Martel, Piper, Blassie.

September 1982/COLOR POSTER: Blackjack Mulligan Jr. Cover story: Tommy Rich. PLUS: Piper, Snuka, Von Erich, Martel, AWA Sheiks.

October 1982/COLOR POSTER: Jerry Lawler. Cover story: Ric Flair. PLUS: Rhodes, Graham, Race, Funk Jr.

December 1982/COLOR POSTER: Rick Martel. Cover story: Hulk Hogan. PLUS: Von Erich, Orndorff, Albano.

January 1983/COLOR POSTER: Ken Patera. Cover story: Rick Steamboat. PLUS: Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

February 1983/COLOR POSTER: Ivan Putski. Cover story: Rhodes vs. Garvin. PLUS: Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

April 1983/COLOR POSTER: Superstar Graham. Cover story: Mil Mascaras. PLUS: Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

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August 1983/COLOR POSTER: Larry Zbyszko. Cover story: Roddy Piper. PLUS: Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

October 1983/COLOR POSTER: Junkyard Dog. Cover story: Tommy Rich. PLUS: Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

November 1983/COLOR POSTER: Roddy Piper. Cover story: Harley Race. PLUS: Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

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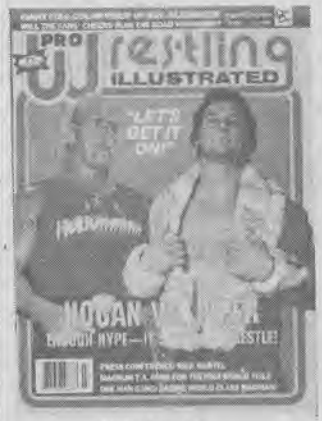

JULY 1985

January 1984/COLOR POSTER: Harley Race. Cover story: Rick Martel. PLUS: Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

February 1984/COLOR POSTER: Jim Garvin & Sunshine. Cover story: Greg Valentine. PLUS: Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

April 1984/COLOR POSTER: Rocky Johnson. Cover story: Ric Flair. PLUS: Hogan, Andre, Rich, Bundy.

May 1984/COLOR POSTER: Hacksaw Butch Reed. Cover story: Hulk Hogan. PLUS: Road Warriors, Fabulous Ones, Flair, Rotundo.

June 1984/COLOR POSTER: Dick Slater. Cover story: Ted DiBiase. PLUS: Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, One Man Gang, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR POSTER: Paul Ellering. Cover story: Jimmy Valiant. PLUS: JYD, Fabulous Ones, Gagne, Windham.

August 1984/COLOR POSTER: Stan Hansen. Cover story: Jerry Lawler. PLUS: Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

September 1984/COLOR POSTER: Hulk Hogan. Cover story: The Road Warriors. SPECIAL FIFTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE—A Look Back At Wrestling In The *PWI* Years.

October 1984/COLOR POSTER: Billy Jack. Cover story: Kerry Von Erich. PLUS: Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR POSTER: Rick Martel. Cover story: Sgt. Slaughter. PLUS: Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

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February 1985/COLOR POSTER: Magnum T.A. Cover story: Rick Martel. PLUS: Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

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May 1985/COLOR POSTER: Road Warriors. SPECIAL TAG TEAM ISSUE! Cover story: Fabulous Ones & Rock 'n' Roll Express. PLUS: Windham & Rotundo, Von Erich & Billy Haynes, *PWI* Rates Top 15 teams.

June 1985/COLOR POSTER: Barry Windham. Cover story: Dusty Rhodes. PLUS: Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, Magnum T.A.

July 1985/COLOR POSTER: Sgt. Slaughter. Cover story: Hogan vs. Piper. PLUS: Road Warriors, One Man Gang, Magnum T.A., Martel.

August 1985/COLOR POSTER: Rock 'n' Roll Express. Cover story: Von Erichs. PLUS: Slaughter, Hogan, NWA scouting reports.

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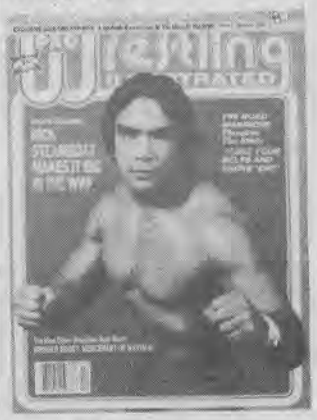

OCTOBER 1985

October 1985/COLOR POSTER: Chris Adams. Cover story: Steamboat. PLUS: Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

November 1985/COLOR POSTER: Randy Savage. Cover story: Ric Flair. PLUS: Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

December 1985/COLOR POSTER: Jesse Ventura. Cover story: Great American Bash. PLUS: Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

January 1986/COLOR POSTER: Hacksaw Duggan. Cover story: Hulk Hogan. PLUS: Magnum T.A., Brody, Gagne.

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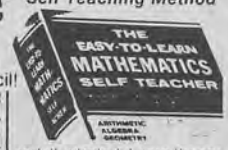

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THE MISSING LINK

(Continued from page 52)

of bloodline does he have? How was he raised? By what was he raised?

Watching his match only whetted my interest. This guy was remarkable. A body carved from stone. Quick as a house fly. His wrestling style, while certainly unorthodox, was most effective. He seemed immune to punishment, while the slightest tap of his massive arm sent DiBiase reeling. Meanwhile, nothing DiBiase did worked at all. Yet, the match ended with The Link being pinned.

That really bothered me. He wasn't outwrestled or in any way outmaneuvered. DiBiase seemed as surprised to score the pin as I was. The Link was completely unaffected. Obviously, wins and losses meant nothing to him. He simply got up, his green eyes darting in his head like ricocheting bullets, grabbed his bushy tuft of hair and hurled himself into the turnbuckle. He repeated this four times, running randomly from corner to corner, and I suspect it would have gone on indefinitely had not Akbar stepped in and assumed command.

I left the Superdome that night completely baffled, as if I had met up with a creature from outer space. I could see right away that The Missing Link could do anything he wanted to do in the ring. It was simply a matter of harnessing his energy the right way. I made a mental note to keep track of this guy and his career.

The maintenance of daily life often interferes with the upkeep of mental notes, as it did in my case. The next time I heard about The Missing Link was when I came to work for the magazine, which was about seven months ago. By then he was being managed by Percival Pringle, whom I had known for several years, having done a freelance piece on him for another magazine.

Pringle knew of my fascination with the Link and would try to use me for it, offering to exchange bits of information about the Link for plugs in the magazines about his wrestlers. It was a game to which I quickly became wise. So now, despite the sincerity in his tone and my fatal interest in The Missing Link, I kept a steady head.

"Mother and I have kept the secret long enough. It's time for the world to know."

"What do you want for it, Percy?"

"Want! Want! Want! Such a cynic you are, Edward. I do not *want* anything. But I would *appreciate* it if you would mention in your fine magazines that Hercules Hernandez is now part of the Pringle dynasty."

Aye! So there was a rub after all, although in all honesty, Hernandez joining the Pringle dynasty was worthy of a mention anyway. At that time, Bill Apter came by my desk and casually remarked that The Missing Link had left the Pringle dynasty and was now in the WWF, under the management of Bobby Heenan. Click. Everything now fell into place.

I had many options. It's not every day that you have Percy Pringle over a barrel. Yet despite the fact that Pringle had shamelessly tried to dupe me, I had no desire to continue this silly game. Obviously, any new information was not forthcoming. Stonewalled and frustrated, I simply hung up the phone.

•

Later that week I caught the Link's debut in New York's Madison Square Garden. Bobby Heenan waited out a gusty chant of "Weasel! Weasel!" to

inform the crowd about his newest charge. "Ladies and Gentlemen," Heenan announced to the audience, "I want Hulk Hogan and Paul Orndorff and Jimmy 'Superfly' Snuka and all the other wrestlers in the WWF to pay attention to what I am about to say. I am about to introduce the most dangerous force in the history of wrestling. I am about to introduce the man who will strike fear into the hearts of everyone in this area . . ."

The most dangerous man in wrestling. Hmmm. I asked Akbar recently who is the greatest force in wrestling today. I expected him to say Kamala or Steve Williams or somebody else in his collection of wrestlers. Without a moment's delay, Akbar said it was The Missing Link. "I don't manage him anymore and I don't want to manage him," Akbar told me. "Any manager who says he controls the Link is lying. I thought I controlled him. But when he wouldn't listen, that was it—there was nothing I could do. If the Link ever decides to become champion, then he'll become champion, manager or no manager. There is nobody in wrestling as strong and mobile and unpredictable and impervious to pain as The Missing Link. Those who really know wrestling will tell you the same thing."

The Link annihilated S.D. Jones in that Garden debut. Jones, who must go 6'1" and weigh at least 250 pounds, offered about as much resistance as my girlfriend after three drinks. After the five-minute match, the Link started to ping off the turnbuckles and Heenan ran in to stop him. Link stared at Heenan from atop the ringpost and for a moment it appeared as if he might come smashing down on The Weasel's head. Heenan's cocky demeanor melted before the 20,000 fans—it was apparent that he didn't know what the Link would do either.

As it turned out, The Missing Link quietly dismounted and followed a much relieved Heenan back to the dressing room. However, what he will do the next time, or the time after that, remains as mysterious as the man himself. □

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DUSTY RHODES

(Continued from page 29)

While Blanchard was able to maintain an advantage over Rhodes for a portion of their match, carrying that advantage to a pinfall or a submission over The American Dream is no simple task. And while Rhodes was certainly battered and beaten by the "Superbrat," he was nevertheless able to fight back and capture Blanchard in the figure-four leglock.

Rhodes' figure-four leglock is legendary. Few men are able to battle back against Dusty's enormously powerful legs and break the hold; fewer still have been able to reverse it.

Blanchard relied not on his own power, however, but on the interference of Baby Doll, his valet, in order to battle Dusty's figure-four.

"That's right, Blanchard, bimbo! She's nothing but a bimbo who blindly follows your orders. Baby Doll is no Barbie doll, Blanchard, and she better learn that if she wants to dance with The Dream, she's gonna have to pay the band, you know what I'm saying? Now The Dream don't go around hittin' women, but Baby Doll is no woman—and when she steps into that ring and messes with my business, she's leaving herself open to retaliation from The Dream!"

With Blanchard caught in Dusty's figure-four leglock, Baby Doll ran into the ring and began beating Rhodes. This is no 120-pound skinny woman; Baby Doll—until recently known as "Nicola Roberts, The Lady Giant"—stands 6'1" and weighs 205 pounds. In a blind attack from behind, that woman's frame counts for a lot of power.

"Listen here, Tully Blanchard. You're a coward. You're not a man, you're a yellow-bellied cow-

ard who has to hide behind a female and let her do the man's job that you can't do for yourself. How does that feel, Tully? How does that feel? Are you proud of yourself, daddy, are you able to sleep at night?

"Well keep listening, brat, because I'm putting you on warning right now. You have Baby Doll hitting me from behind. You run like a jackrabbit when the going get's tough and The Dream gets going. You're a worthless little pebble of slime, Blanchard, and I'm going to deal with you like all slime should be dealt with. And that goes for your bimbo valet, too. I'm gonna slam you down, sucker, slam you down and go to town!"

Dusty let go of the microphone and it fell into the small puddle of blood on the mat that had accumulated from the drippings off his head. He stepped out of the ring to the tumultuous cheers of the Mid-Atlantic fans and began making his way back to his dressing room.

As Dusty walked through the crowd, fans rushed to his side to pat him on the back and offer their encouragement:

"You got it, Dusty!"

"Go to it, Dream!"

"Make Tully and Baby Doll pay, Dusty, make them pay!"

A smile remained on Dusty's face as the guards accompanying him guided him past a steel barrier toward the dressing room. Before walking through the doorway, Dusty turned to the crowd and screamed at the top of his lungs:

"I'm gonna slam that sucker down!"

The deafening cheers of the fans was all the reply that Dusty could have asked for. □

GARVINS

(Continued from page 31)

and Brito. What's the deal, man?"

"I'm your brother, aren't I? If I want to help you out, then it's my right to help you out. Blood is thicker than water, right?"

"Not as thick as the water you got on your brain, Ronnie. The last time we talked, you hung up on me. You said that anyone who wrestles like me and hangs around with a broad like Precious is not fit to be called your brother. Do you remember that conversation, my loving, loyal, and adoring sibling?"

Ronnie Garvin stirred. He swung his feet off of the table and rose up out of his chair. He moved quickly over to the big picture window, with the view of the downtown area, and grabbed Jim Garvin by the lapels of his silk shirt. "Look little fella, " he growled, no longer Ronnie Garvin, having turned into The Hands of Stone. "I am your older brother. I love you. We are part of a family. What I did in the past I did for a reason. What I do now I do for a reason. Maybe my fist can help you understand that. It always used to work when we were kids."

Jim Garvin looked at his brother's celebrated fist and was suddenly his memory was refreshed. Jim Garvin would fight Rick Martel for the AWA championship in a heartbeat, but putting up the dukes against his older brother on the 39th floor at five in the morning was certainly out of the question. A thin smile creased his lips. "Ronnie, baby," Jim said extending his hand in a parody of friendship, "glad to have you aboard."

Later that night at the arena, the reunited Garvins didn't show much brotherly love toward Gino

(Continued on page 58)

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GARVINS

(Continued from page 57)

Brito Jr. and Dino Bravo as they assaulted Canadian fan favorites with a fast-paced aggressive attack. Ronnie returned the boos of the partisan crowd with an extremely vicious beating of Brito Jr., while Jimmy and Precious kept Bravo occupied.

Afterward, as they posed for pictures in the dressing room, Ronnie Garvin told reporters why he is risking his favorable reputation by helping his brother.

"As you all know, I lost my National title in a loser-leave-town match to Black Bart and it really had me down for a while. Then I just said the hell with it. I lost one thing—which is all my title was when you get right down to it—a thing, a belt, an accessory—and I tried to regain something that really is important."

Ronnie Garvin put an arm around his brother and Precious. "Last year I was so disgusted with these two that I hung up on Jimmy and refused to see them. I was selfish. I felt that because Jimmy broke the rules, because he was so flamboyant, and because he kept company with this young lady"—he nodded toward Precious; she blushed and looked down at the ground—"that I couldn't lower myself to associate with him. My own brother and I couldn't associate with him. I had the fans to think about.

"My fans are still important to me, but losing the belt taught me how fleeting some things are in life. Fame, adoration, money—these things come and go. But your family, hey, you're stuck with them forever, so you might as well make the best of it.

"When I learned that Jimmy was up here and having a little trouble with Brito and Bravo, I called him

(Continued on page 60)

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GARVINS

(Continued from page 58)

and told him I'd be on the next flight up here." He winked at his brother. "Jimmy had a little trouble believing that my intentions were pure, but we straightened that out last night. Didn't we little brother?"

"Oh yeah," chimed Jimmy, "oh yeah. We got everything pretty as a picture. Pretty as a Rembrandt. With my brother here by my side, we will shortly and in no time at all dominate Canadian wrestling. Then we will go south and pay back all of those men who mistreated me in the United States. The Garvins are back, friends, and as the saying goes, we are better than ever! Ain't that right big brother?"

Ronnie Garvin's smile reeked with satisfaction. "Whatever you say Jimmy. Whatever you say." □

KERRY VON ERICH

(Continued from page 33)

eat chicken breast. And when I get tired of eating chicken breast, I start eating fish. And I do that all day. When you're eating that sort of thing, you never get filled up.

Finding Time To Work Out

People often say to me, "How can you find time to work out?"

Well, like I tell anyone, you *always* have time to do anything you want to do. I mean, if you want to go fishing, how are you going to get up early that morning, get your job done, then get out and go fishing? Anytime you want to do something, you're going to make time to do it.

I want to train, and that's why I have time to do it.

And believe me, sometimes it's not easy to make that time!

See, my day is a little different than most any other professional wrestler, because I'm involved in the gym, Kerry Von Erich's National Health Studio here in Lewisville, Texas. I've got to make sure that's running right. I'm also in the protein and vitamin and supplement business. And so as much as four or five or six hours of my day goes to that, also.

The Daily Workout

Usually, when I get up in the morning I'll have breakfast, then do some stretching, more or less like aerobics, for about 45 minutes, just to loosen up and get awake.

My workout is a basic push-pull routine. It's called a four day a week routine, but really it's a six day a week routine—for me, that is, because that's the way I make it.

On Mondays, for example, I'll work on my chest, my shoulders, and my triceps. On Tuesdays, I'll work on my back, my biceps, and my legs. On Wednesdays, I'll work on my waist, do aerobic exercises, stretch out, and make sure everything's working all right. Then on Thursdays, I start back on chest, shoulders, and triceps, and start the whole cycle over again.

When I'm working out, I never do more than 15 sets per body part. Let's take that first day of the cycle: For my chest, I'll do five sets of bench presses,

(Continued on page 62)

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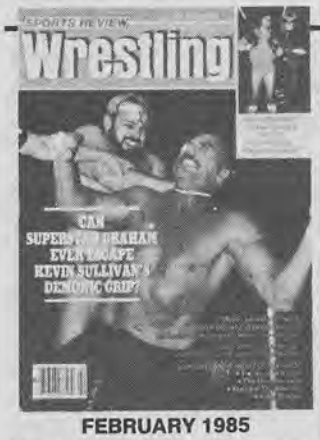

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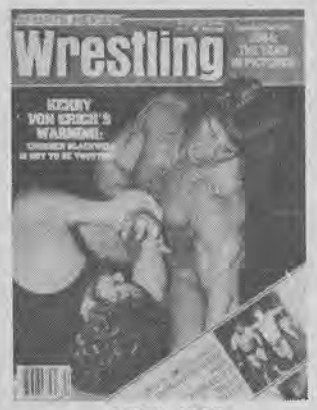

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June 1984/Cover stories: Windham-Flair, Gilbert. PLUS: Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta.

July 1984/Cover stories: Flair-Gordy. PLUS: Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA Tag team tournament.

August 1984/Cover stories: Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes. PLUS: Zbyszko, Von Erich, The Faces Of Wrestling.

September 1984/Cover stories: Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.

October 1984/Cover stories: Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video. PLUS: Atlas, Spoiler, historic Orange Bowl card.

November 1984/Cover story: Von Erich & Billy Jack. PLUS: Andre, Fabulous Ones, The Summer Wars!

December 1984/Cover stories: Rich-Gilbert, Martel. PLUS: Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class action weekend.

January 1985/Cover stories: Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund. PLUS: Fabulous Ones, *Pro Wrestling USA*.

February 1985/Cover stories: Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts. PLUS: Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.

March 1985/Cover story: Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs. PLUS: 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.

April 1985/Cover stories: Von Erich-Blackwell, Billy Haynes-Jesse Barr. PLUS: Hart, Irwins, 1985 in Pictures.

May 1985/Cover stories: Albano, Freebirds-Flair. PLUS: Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas closeup.

June 1985/Cover story: Pro Wrestling U.S.A. PLUS: Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.

July 1985/Cover stories: Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches. PLUS: Backlund, Snuka.

August 1985/Cover stories: Flair vs. Nikita. PLUS: Orndorff, Slaughter, Haynes, Parade of Champions II.

September 1985/Cover stories: Adams vs. Von Erich, Orndorff. PLUS: Sawyer, Kamala, Barr, Atlanta action.

October 1985/Cover stories: Martel vs. Hayes, Richter. PLUS: Savage, Adams, Magnum T.A., Road Warriors.

November 1985/Cover stories: Freebirds vs. Warriors, Mid-South action. PLUS: Billy Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.

December 1985/Cover stories: Hogan, Zbyszko vs. Martel. PLUS: Youngblood, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.

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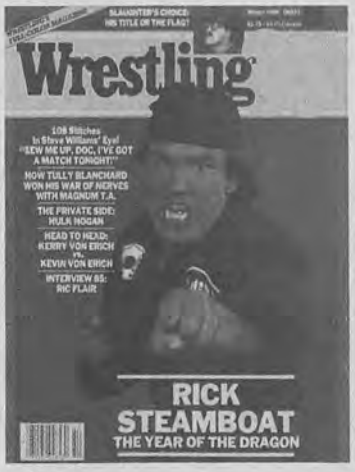

Wrestling 85

Packed With Color Photos Of Wrestling's Biggest Stars!

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The Best Keeps Getting Better!

KERRY VON ERICH

(Continued from page 60)

five sets of inclined bench presses, then five sets of dumbbells, and that's all for my chest. But all that equals 15 sets.

I pretty much work my shoulders the same way, but with more repetition than I do in my chest. I go for anywhere from seven to 10 reps on my shoulders, while on my chest I do about five reps. Then when I go to my triceps, it's eight to 12 reps.

The next day in the cycle I do my back and my biceps.

I do pull-downs and in-fronts, where I pull the bar with a wide grip down in front of my face, and then where I put my hands together and do pull-downs in front. I do five sets both ways, and then I go to my biceps and I do my curls.

I stay with about 15 sets of curls, using different forms of movements. I do them seated on the incline board, then I do them with a straight bar, five sets of eight to 10 reps.

Understand what I mean by eight to 10 reps: I shoot for eight to 10 reps, and usually I'll only be able to do eight or nine. When I finally get to that 10th rep in all of my sets, that's my body's way of saying, "Hey, it's time to raise your weight, it's time to go heavier."

So when I get to that 10th rep on that last set, I put some more weight on the bar and I start all over again. I get my eight reps usually after I raise my weight, and my next workout is harder. But that way you're always moving forward, you're always gaining, and you're never looking back saying, "Last week I was pulling five pounds heavier."

That never happens to me. I never look back. I'll always keep going up.

Do What Works For You

But understand that this is what works for me. I couldn't go out on the street and tell people that this is the

(Continued on page 64)

THE FASTEST, EASIEST

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You'll Ever Make in Your Life, Yours *Now*

- WITHOUT A PENNY OF INVESTMENT
- WITHOUT LEAVING YOUR HOME
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There are all kinds of ways to make money. Good golly, Molly — if anyone knows that, I do! For the past 20+ years I've concentrated on finding, investigating, creating and specifically singling out only the very finest legal and ethical methods for carving out a mass of wealth in a hurry. But believe me, in all those years never have I experienced anything remotely as exciting as this one!

Recently, I came across a fairly new way to make big bux, but after a thorough study I discarded it because it required too much investment of time, money and personal effort. But my study did serve as inspiration to develop yet another fantastic and unusual wallet-fattener — **something that until now has never been done** — yet fully complies with the tough set of standards I'm noted for demanding of *any* potential wealth-producing concept:

- Must be able to be started with **minimum investment**
- Must be possible to **start at home** and not interfere with family life.
- Must be able to be started and **run initially by one man or woman**
- Must require only a **few hours of spare time per week**
- Must have realistic annual profit potential of **$40,000 or more**

Well, this one goes way beyond my usual rigorous test. Get this: This extra-ordinary money-maker® allows you to:

- Start at once — **within 30 seconds** of studying my report
- Invest **not a single cent**
- Accomplish everything **without leaving your home** — heck, you can do it from your favorite easy chair whilst eating pizza or petting the dog (or vicey versey!)
- Have a potential **net profit** (not gross ... **net!**) of $100,000.00 by the end of 90 days — tops. And that's **cash**, not theoretical or paper profits.

Naturally, you're wondering what all this is — but I'm not going to tell you here. No, it's going to cost you ten smackers to find out. But I will tell you what it *isn't* so you'll not be off on some wild goose chase:

★ No sex or off-color stuff
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★ No mail order, envelope stuffing or drop-shipping
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For the past two decades Du Vall has captured the imagination of men and women the world over by providing solid, unique direction for their quest for financial freedom. His firm is headquartered in Michigan with international marketing offices in Hong Kong (known as DAX International, John W. Lane, President). In addition to producing some three dozen publications on money-making/self-improvement themes, DuVall is also the creator of the popular Derek Dax adventure/mystery/romance series and the author of the political intrigue novel, "The Big Dream" (published by Lyle Stuart, Inc., New York). Unlike most, he has never had to resort to outlandish money-back guarantees to attract only the finest DAX-DOERS world-wide and no such policy is expressed or implied.

His writings have been used in numerous style and content workshops and accredited courses at such institutions as California State University, UCLA, Fordham, University of Illinois and Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

WHO CAN DO IT

Anyone with even a smidgen of ambition.

WHAT IS REQUIRED

Other than my step-by-step detailed report ... nothing. I have thought long and hard about it; A person virtually without a shirt on their back or a pot to plant petunias in could do it. You will of course, have to put my plan into motion — but that's both fun and easy and totally accomplished from the comfort of your own home. (By the way, no one will be coming to your home, either.)

Finally, let me make this clear: Once you have my report, **that is all you need to get going!** I have nothing else to sell you for this deal. Your purchase of this extraordinary report is NOT a "foot in the door" to get you to buy some extra or expensive "course" or whatever ... this is all you need from me!

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We have over 10,000 'tasty testimonials' from housewives, doctors, lawyers, layed-off factory workers—all sorts of good people. These excerpts sum up their feelings:

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1. Put this ad aside, wait 90 days or so and perhaps lose your chance at $100,000.

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2. Do the only sensible thing. Send me the ten bux and get started on wearing in that path to the bank.

P.S. One more thing (say, this Du Vall is a windy so and so, isn't he!). There are lots of people right now in bad financial straits. I hope you're not one of them, but if you are, having read this ad you now have absolutely no excuse for being broke, because as the saying goes, "This is it!" This could truly be the once-and-for-all solution to any money miseries you have. I guess you'll have to take my word for it until you receive these fabulous reports — but if it eases your mind any, over 1,000,000 men and women worldwide have been, over the years **repeat buyers** of my books, courses, reports, cassette tape programs and newsletters. There must be a reason . . .

— Dean F. V. Du Vall

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KERRY VON ERICH

(Continued from page 62)

way they should work out, because there's a million ways to do it. Everyone has his own way. Everyone has to find his own place to start. They have to do what feels good to them.

But to me, as far as my workout routine goes, I do recommend it. I think it's versatile, and I think it would probably work for just about anyone who was consistent, always went to the gym, trained, never missed a workout, never missed meals, and is basically always conscious of how his body is looking.

Jogging vs. Swimming

A lot of people ask me about jogging, and I don't agree with jogging. I never will.

Jogging creates stress on the knees, because of the repetitious movement involved. For a heavy guy like myself, it's not good at all. For someone who's light weight, jogging is okay. But in the long run, it's going to mess up your knees and it's going to end up giving you shin splints or problems with your ankles. You can talk to any orthopedist and he'll tell you to stay away from jogging.

Try swimming instead. When you swim, your breathing has to be just right, your legs have to be working right, and your arms are going to be pulling a lot harder than your legs. Swimming is the best aerobic exercise there is. It's better to swim laps in the pool than run miles on the street!

The only reason jogging is so popular is that it's so easy. You can do it anywhere. But with swimming, you've got to join a pool or you've got to join a health club, and it makes it that much tougher for people.

Fitness and Wrestling

Physical fitness is everything to me. Everything.

You take a picture of a physically fit wrestler and you put it up alongside one of any fat wrestler or overweight

wrestler in the whole wrestling world. You know that the money will be laying on the guy who looks in the best shape.

When that guy who is in shape goes into the ring, he's gonna go in there moving. He'll be sharp as a tack. He'll be ready, he'll be loosened up, and he'll be hot to trot. But you look at that overweight guy, and what's on his mind is the Monday night football game or getting home and getting that big belly full of beer or ice cream or something.

Sometimes these wrestlers say that it's padding, that they don't get hurt as much in the ring. You know what I say to that? I say it's B.S. If anything, it hurts you, it slows you down. I think it gives wrestling a bad reputation. If a guy isn't in shape and is not in condition for this sport, he should get out of it. Because if he gets in the way of Kerry Von Erich, Kerry Von Erich is gonna tear his head off!

Looking Ahead To Flair

When I wrestle, I don't want any excuses. When I don't feel like I'm in shape, and I step in the ring, I don't like to take my ring jacket off, I don't like for the fans to see me, and I feel like I've let those people down. Even though the people still cheer when I take off my jacket, inside my head I think how I'm not in the best of shape, and thank goodness I'm not going up against a guy like Ric Flair.

And just to say something about Ric Flair: Ric Flair is one of the guys I was talking about. Ric Flair is probably in as good or better shape than anyone else in this sport, and he's gone the hours with the greatest wrestlers in the world to prove it, men like Rick Steamboat, Barry Windham, and Billy Haynes.

I have nothing but respect for Ric Flair, and I'll tell you what: I'm looking forward to getting back in the ring one more time with him. Because it's an honor and a pleasure, and there's nothing more I want than to have the NWA World belt back around my waist, because back around my waist is where it belongs. □

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Name _____

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HULK HOGAN

(Continued from page 35)

days, matches are never called on account of rain. A competitive wrestler might wrestle up to six nights a week throughout the year. Don't let a little unsightly flab deceive you: Wrestlers are arguably the best-conditioned athletes in the world.

Given the unique demands of the sport, most wrestlers routinely take several days off every few months, or at least go on what are loosely termed as working vacations to other areas of the country or world. These little rest junkets are necessary to preserve both the body and the mind, and, given the natural resilience of pro wrestlers, it appears to be all that they need.

Hulk Hogan is not ordinary, even by the extraordinary standards set by professional wrestlers. He is the Hulk, the Ninth Wonder of World, leader of Hulkamania, a one-man multi-million dollar industry.

He's more visible, more famous, more popular, and more recognizable then any wrestler in the world today. Appropriately, Hogan was the centerpiece of the most highly publicized wrestling promotion in history. "WrestleMania" owes much of its success to the tireless promotion of one man, Hulk Hogan.

In the weeks preceding the match, Hogan appeared to be everywhere. You could scarcely turn on your television without mention of "WrestleMania" followed by his famous towheaded visage. On radio it was the Hulk's staccato voice preaching WrestleMania on what seemed to be every show. In the papers and magazines, nary a day went by without a new Hogan layout, each one featuring a new celebrity, each day emphasizing a different angle.

WrestleMania came and went, but Hogan remained in the spotlight. Wrestling three times a week. Introducing his new cartoon show. Speaking at another men's club. Appearing on another talk show. Was this man human? Of course not! No human being could survive at his clip.

But then, just as the media were ready to consign unto Hogan full membership rights to the Clark Kent Club of Accomplishment, he bared his flesh and blood and showed us all that he is, in the end, very human.

In his first match at Madison Square Garden after "WrestleMania," Hogan was badly outwrestled by Magnificent Muraco and was counted out of the ring. Hulk Hogan lost and, by all accounts, was fortunate to hang on to his title.

If Hogan at full speed is several paces ahead of the rest of the pack, then it makes sense to assume that a Hulk Hogan burnout would be a disaster. Yet it would also seem that his schedule makes such a burnout not only possible, but inevitable.

As veteran ring hawk Matt Brock plainly stated, "Some actors and celebrities thrive in the limelight and actually gain sustenance from it. Hogan must remember, though, that he is not just a celebrity. He is an athlete. If he wishes to retire from the ring then that's fine. Let him be on TV all day long. But as a wrestler, he's dying a fast death. He needs a rest. He needs to relax. Even if it was just for a week. With his recuperative powers, that's all he'd need. But he'd better do it soon. There are plenty of wrestlers out there better then Magnificent Muraco."

Hulk Hogan: athlete in search of an off-season. His legions of fans had better pray he finds one soon. □

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Dusty Rhodes

TOP10

1—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN

2—**RICK MARTEL**
236, Quebec City, Quebec

3—**HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA

4—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX

5—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX

6—**TITO SANTANA**
245, Mission, TX

7—**TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL

8—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia

9—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA

10—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI

TAG TEAMS

1—**THE ROAD WARRIORS**
AWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 567 pounds

2—**RICK MORTON & ROBERT GIBSON**
NWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 453 pounds

3—**GREG VALENTINE & BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**
WWF World tag team champions
Combined weight: 511 pounds

4—**OLE & ARN ANDERSON**
National tag team champions
Combined weight: 525 pounds

5—**AL PEREZ & WENDELL COOLEY**
Mid-South tag team champions
Combined weight: 451 pounds

6—**CHRIS ADAMS & GINO HERNANDEZ**
No. 1 contenders to World Class tag team title
Combined weight: 454 pounds

7—**DENNIS CONDREY & BOBBY EATON**
No. 1 contenders to NWA tag team title
Combined weight: 472 pounds

8—**WAHOO McDANIEL & BILLY JACK HAYNES**
U.S. tag team champions
Combined weight: 505 pounds

9—**STEVE KEIRN & STAN LANE**
Mid-Southern tag team champions
Combined weight: 479 pounds

10—**BARRY WINDHAM & MIKE ROTUNDO**
No. 1 contenders to WWF tag team title
Combined weight: 475 pounds

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN

1—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX

2—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX

3—**TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL

4—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA

5—**RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN

6—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia

7—**WAHOO McDANIEL**
260, Midland, TX

8—**KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX

9—**HARLEY RACE**
253, Kansas City, MO

10—**BRIAN ADIDAS**
238, Denton, TX

AWA

World Champion:
RICK MARTEL
236, Quebec City, Quebec

1—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Parris Island, SC

2—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA

3—**JIM GARVIN**
235, Tampa, FL

4—**MICHAEL HAYES**
255, Marietta, GA

5—**NICK BOCKWINKEL**
245, Beverly Hills, CA

6—**BORIS ZUKHOV**
254, Leningrad, Russia

7—**GREG GAGNE**
220, Robbinsdale, MN

8—**BUCK ZUMHOFE**
222, Hamburg, MN

9—**CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN

10—**RAY STEVENS**
243, San Francisco, CA

WWF

World Champion:
HULK HOGAN
302, Venice Beach, CA

1—**TITO SANTANA**
245, Mission, TX

2—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO**
274, Sunset Beach, HA

3—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI

4—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL

5—**RODDY PIPER**
231, Scotland

6—**PAUL ORNDORFF**
253, Brandon, FL

7—**ANDRE THE GIANT**
505, Grenoble, France

8—**JUNKYARD DOG**
260, New Orleans, LA

9—**TERRY FUNK**
247, Amarillo, TX

10—**KING KONG BUNDY**
446, Atlantic City, NJ

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

1—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX

2—**TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL

3—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX

4—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia

5—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA

6—**RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec

7—**JIMMY VALIANT**
251, New York, NY

8—**MANNY FERNANDEZ**
245, El Paso, TX

9—**SAM HOUSTON**
218, Waco, TX

10—**KONGA THE BARBARIAN**
265, Chicago

OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

WORLD CLASS
1—ICEMAN PARSONS
242, St. Louis, MO
2—BRIAN ADIDAS
238, Denton, TX
3—BRUISER BRODY
284, Albuquerque, NM
4—GINO HERNANDEZ
224, Houston, TX
5—KEVIN VON ERICH
239, Denton, TX
6—CHRIS ADAMS
230, Stratford, England
7—KERRY VON ERICH
260, Denton, TX
8—ONE MAN GANG
468, Chicago, IL
9—KABUKI
252, Singapore
10—KILLER BROOKS
235, Lancaster, TX

MID-SOUTH
1—DICK MURDOCH
270, Waxahachie, TX
2—BUTCH REED
265, Kansas City, MO
3—HACKSAW DUGGAN
280, Glens Falls, NY
4—TED DiBIASE
247, Omaha, NB
5—JAKE ROBERTS
243, Baton Rouge, LA
6—HUMONGOUS
318, parts unknown
7—THE BARBARIAN
316, parts unknown
8—STEVE WILLIAMS
295, Tulsa, OK
9—DICK SLATER
235, Tampa, FL
10—BUZZ SAWYER
240, St. Petersburg, FL

FLORIDA
1—RICK RUDE
246, Robbinsdale, MN
2—KENDELL WINDHAM
220, Sweetwater, TX
3—WAHOO McDANIEL
260, Midland, TX
4—BILLY JACK HAYNES
245, Portland, OR
5—KEVIN SULLIVAN
239, Boston, MA
6—MIKE GRAHAM
229, Tampa, FL
7—PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE
245, Minneapolis, MN
8—BOB ROOP
273, Tampa, FL
9—BUGSY McGRAW
268, New York, NY
10—JACK HART
230, St. Petersburg, FL

MID-SOUTHERN
1—JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN
2—KOKO WARE
229, Union City, TN
3—MONGOLIAN STOMPER
259, Mongolia
4—PHIL HICKERSON
238, Jackson, TN
5—TARRUS BALBA
237, Outer Mongolia
6—BOTA
270, Maori Islands
7—TOJO YAMAMOTO
230, Tokyo, Japan
8—LORD JONATHAN BOYD
255, Aucklund, New Zealand
9—RIP MORGAN
250, Auklund, New Zealand
10—BILLY TRAVIS
218, Houston, TX

CONTINENTAL
1—TOMMY RICH
238, Hendersonville, TN
2—EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET
227, South Wales
3—THE FLAME
305, parts unknown
4—JIMMY GOLDEN
234, Montgomery, AL
5—ROBERT FULLER
238, Dyresburg, TN
6—BRAD ARMSTRONG
226, Marietta, GA
7—ROBERTO SOTO
231, San Juan, Puerto Rico
8—RON FULLER
285, Dyresburg, AL
9—BILL ASH
224, Paris, AK
10—ROY WELCH
224, Tampa, FL

NORTHWEST
1—RICKY VAUGHAN
245, Tampa, FL
2—MIKE MILLER
260, Memphis, TN
3—BOBBY JAGGERS
265, Dunlap, KS
4—ALEXIS SMIRNOFF
255, Russia
5—TIMOTHY FLOWERS
245, New York, NY
6—JOE SAVOLDI
232, Parsippany, NJ
7—STEVE SIMPSON
220, Africa
8—CHRIS COLT
230, San Fransisco, CA
9—MOONDOG MORETTI
245, Boise, ID
10—SCOTT DORING
270, Minneapolis, MN

MOST POPULAR
1—HULK HOGAN
302, Venice Beach, CA
2—MAGNUM T.A.
245, Chesapeake, VA
3—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX
4—KERRY VON ERICH
260, Denton, TX
5—RICK MARTEL
236, Quebec City, Quebec
6—RICK STEAMBOAT
238, Honolulu, HI
7—KEVIN VON ERICH
239, Denton, TX
8—TERRY TAYLOR
225, Vero Beach, FL
9—SGT. SLAUGHTER
310, Parris Island, SC
10—TITO SANTANA
245, Mission, TX

MOST HATED
1—TULLY BLANCHARD
235, San Antonio, TX
2—RODDY PIPER
231, Glasgow, Scotland
3—MAGNIFICENT MURACO
274, Sunset Beach, HI
4—CHRIS ADAMS
230, Stratford, England
5—TED DiBIASE
247, Omaha, NB
6—NIKITA KOLOFF
276, Moscow, Russia
7—RICK RUDE
246, Robbinsdale, MN
8—RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL
9—OLE ANDERSON
256, Minneapolis, MN
10—GINO HERNANDEZ
224, Houston, TX

For period ended October 2, 1985

THIS MONTH IN...

The Wrestler

ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!

SPECIAL FULL-COLOR SECTION!
Learn the results of our special fan poll and find out who are the 10 greatest wrestlers of ***The Wrestler*** years

RIC FLAIR collects his own bounty as he decides to battle **WAHOO McDANIEL** himself

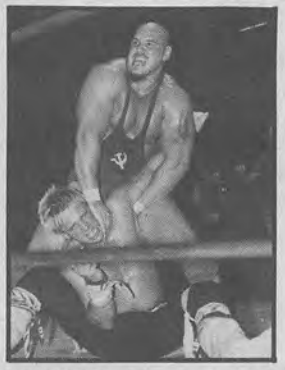
PLUS . . .
TOMMY RICH learns how to wrestle for success as "Wildfire" learns how to control **THE FLAME** . . . **CPL. KIRSCHNER** is haunted by the shadow of **SGT. SLAUGHTER** . . . "Q & A" interview with **KERRY VON ERICH** . . . Introducing **STARSHIP EAGLE**

All this and much more . . .
in the January 1986 issue of
The Wrestler

ON SALE NOW!

Inside Wrestling

The volcano rumbles as **RICK STEAMBOAT** takes on **MAGNIFICENT MURACO**—will this feud lead to uncontrollable violence?



As **IVAN KOLOFF** and **KRUSHER KHRUSHCHEV** battle **THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**, we must ask: Are the R&Rs speeding to disaster?

PLUS . . .
Learn all about the courageous fight for life waged by **MIKE VON ERICH** . . . "Hotseat" interview with **JAKE "THE SNAKE" ROBERTS** . . . It's time for **THE ROAD WARRIORS** to fire **PAUL ELLERING** . . . Ellering and **JIM CORNETTE** face off "One on One"

All this and much more . . .
in the January 1986 issue of
Inside Wrestling

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